

NYC Hunger Experience 2012

One City, Two Realities



ABOUT THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY



Food Bank For New York City recognizes 30 years as the city's major hunger-relief organization working to end food poverty in the five boroughs. As the city's hub for integrated food poverty assistance, the Food Bank tackles the hunger issue on three fronts — food distribution, income support and nutrition education — all strategically guided by its research.

Through its network of community-based member programs citywide, the Food Bank helps provide 400,000 free meals a day for New York City residents in need. The Food Bank's hands-on nutrition education programs reach thousands of children, teens and adults. Income support services, including food stamps, free income tax services for the working poor and the Earned Income Tax Credit, put millions of dollars back in the pockets of low-income New York City residents, helping them achieve greater dignity and independence. Learn how you can help at foodbanknyc.org.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the early throes of the Great Recession in 2008, nearly half of all New York City residents reported difficulty affording needed food (48 percent), a record high since the start of polling for this indicator in 2003. The very next year, as stimulus funding and other relief measures were put in place, and as a slow economic recovery commenced, the percentage of New York City residents reporting difficulty affording needed food began to drop. Since 2009, this overall percentage has continued to decline each year. In 2012, 32 percent of New York City residents (approximately 2.6 million people) reported difficulty affording needed food, a drop of 3 percentage points from 2011, when 35 percent reported difficulty. (This difference of three percentage points represents an overall decline of nine percent.) See Table I.

Table I
Difficulty Affording Food – NYC Residents, 2003 to 2012

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
25%	31%	32%	37%	38%	48%	40%	37%	35%	32%

Although these findings give some cause for optimism, they mask the harsh and very different reality in which New York City's most vulnerable residents find themselves. This year's *NYC Hunger Experience* report reveals a tale of two cities, wherein the struggles of low-income¹ and unemployed New Yorkers to keep food on the table have intensified even as the difficulties of those better off continue to improve.

Within the context of an overall decline in food affordability issues for New York City residents, the increases of the percentages of low-income New Yorkers – particularly low-income New Yorkers with children – and unemployed New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food over the past year are considerable and concerning. The percentage of low-income New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food increased by six percent (from 50 percent in 2011 to 53 percent in 2012), and the percentage of low-income New Yorkers with children reporting difficulty increased by 30 percent (from 54 percent in 2011 to 70 percent in 2012). The percentage of unemployed New Yorkers reporting difficulty increased by 32 percent (from 41 percent in 2011 to 54 percent in 2012).

Making Grocery Ends Meet on a Low Income

Food choices, in the lives of those struggling to afford food, are marked by tradeoffs – not only in the quantity and quality of food purchased, but also between food and other basic household expenses. The percentage of low-income New Yorkers buying less dairy (e.g. milk, yogurt, or cheese) to stretch their grocery dollar increased by five percent (from 40 percent in 2011 to 42 percent in 2012), and the percentage buying less meat, poultry, or fish for the same reason increased by 11 percent (from 47 percent in 2011 to 52 percent in 2012). Instead, large proportions of low-income New Yorkers are stretching their food dollars by buying more grains, cereals and legumes. More than one-half of low-income New Yorkers (51 percent) bought more

¹ Low-income New Yorkers are defined as those with a household income of less than \$25,000 per year.

beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar; 42 percent bought more bread or cereal for the same reason; and 49 percent bought more pasta or rice.

Somewhat predictably, given these results, approximately 22 percent of low-income New Yorkers reported dissatisfaction with their ability to provide adults in their household with healthy, nutritious foods. Indeed, the ability of low-income New Yorkers to put any food on the table was often undermined by the need to meet other household expenses. For instance, sizeable percentages of low-income New Yorkers reported that they were unable to pay for food sometime during the last twelve months because they had to pay for rent (34 percent), utilities (30 percent), transportation (26 percent), and medicine or medical care (23 percent). One-half of low-income New Yorkers (50 percent) reported that they were concerned that they might need food assistance (in the form of SNAP² or use of a food pantry or soup kitchen) in the next twelve months.

Feeding Children on a Tight Budget

The 30-percent increase in the percentage of low-income households with children reporting difficulty affording needed food (from 54 percent in 2011 to 70 percent in 2012) was the biggest single-year increase for any population group in this survey. It should come as little surprise, then, that this group more commonly faces sacrifices to fit food expenses within household budgets. The percentage of low-income households with children buying less dairy to stretch their grocery dollar increased by five percent (from 38 percent in 2011 to 40 percent in 2012), and the percentage buying less meat, poultry, or fish for the same reason increased by 32 percent (from 41 percent in 2011 to 54 percent in 2012). Fifty percent of low-income households with children bought more beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar, and 55 percent bought more bread or cereal for the same reason. Fifty-two percent bought more pasta or rice.

Twenty-one percent of low-income households with children reported dissatisfaction with their ability to provide children in their household with healthy, nutritious foods; twenty-three percent reported dissatisfaction with what they were able to provide adults. Indeed, the ability of low-income New Yorkers with children to provide adults or children in their household with any food at all was sometimes made problematic by the immediacy of other household expenses. For instance, sizeable percentages of low-income New Yorkers with children reported that they were unable to pay for food at some point during the last twelve months because they had to pay for rent (40 percent), utilities (34 percent), transportation (25 percent), and medicine or medical expenses (22 percent). Over one-half of low-income New Yorkers with children (54 percent) reported that they were concerned that they might need food assistance (in the form of SNAP or use of a food pantry or soup kitchen) in the next twelve months.

The Continued Challenge of Unemployment

Lack of employment can have an almost equally dramatic effect on a household's ability to keep food on the table, as many unemployed New Yorkers, subsisting on unemployment benefits (and savings, if these exist), have low incomes. In 2012, over one-half of unemployed New Yorkers (54 percent) reported difficulty affording needed food, but only half that percentage – 27 percent of employed New Yorkers – reported difficulty

² SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is the name of the federal program still commonly known as food stamps.

The percentage of unemployed New Yorkers buying less dairy (e.g. milk, yogurt, or cheese) to stretch their grocery dollar also increased by 12 percent (from 34 percent in 2011 to 38 percent in 2012), and the percentage buying less meat, poultry, or fish for the same reason increased by 49 percent (from 35 percent in 2011 to 52 percent in 2012). (The percentage buying less fresh fruits and vegetables did not increase, perhaps because unemployed New Yorkers were buying few of these to begin with.) Fifty-two percent of unemployed New Yorkers bought more beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar and 47 percent bought more bread or cereal for the same reason. Fifty-eight percent bought more pasta or rice.

The ability of unemployed New Yorkers to put food on the table for adults or children sometimes suffered because of the pressure of other household expenses. For instance, 36 percent of unemployed New Yorkers reported that they were unable to pay for food at some point during the last twelve months because they had to pay for rent; 30 percent, because they had to pay for utilities; 26 percent, because they had to pay for transportation; and 20 percent, because they had to pay for medicine or medical expenses. Almost three in five unemployed New Yorkers (59 percent) reported that they were concerned that they might need food assistance (in the form of Food Stamps or use of a food pantry or soup kitchen) in the next twelve months

A Widening Gap Between Food “Haves” and Food “Have-nots”

Three years after economists declared the end of the Great Recession in 2009, unemployment rates in New York City have yet to drop to pre-recession levels, participation in government food assistance programs continues to rise,³ and demand for emergency food programs continues to intensify.⁴

Research indicates that low-income residents were disproportionately impacted by the Great Recession and are finding it more difficult to rebound from its aftermath. Indeed, as economic opportunities improve for some, the most vulnerable residents of New York City continue to suffer. The results presented in this year's *Hunger Experience* report attest to this fact and draw attention to a widening gap between food “haves” and food “have-nots.” summarized as follows:

- The percentage of low-income New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food *increased* by six percent (from 50 percent in 2011 to 53 percent in 2012), whereas the percentage of New Yorkers in higher income brackets reporting difficulty *decreased* (with the exception of New Yorkers in the \$25,000-\$49,999 bracket). The extent to which low-income New Yorkers made food tradeoffs also *increased*; the extent to which New Yorkers in higher income brackets (again, with the exception of New Yorkers in the \$25,000-\$49,999 bracket) made these tradeoffs *decreased*.
- The percentage of low-income New Yorkers with children reporting difficulty affording needed food *increased* by 30 percent (from 54 percent in 2011 to 70 percent in 2012),

³As of November 2012, there were 1.9 million participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in New York City, up 2 percent from 1.8 million participants one year ago in November 2011, and up 65 percent from 1.1 million participants at the start of the recession in December 2007.

⁴As noted in a recent Food Bank For New York City report entitled *Serving Under Stress Post-Recession: The State of Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Today*, in 2011-12, a substantial majority of food pantries (79 percent) and soup kitchens (77 percent) reported that they had experienced an increase in visitors over the previous twelve months. Among pantries and soup kitchens that experienced an increase in visitors, 90 percent of food pantries and 85 percent of soup kitchens reported an increase in first-time visitors.

whereas the percentage of New Yorkers in higher income brackets with children reporting difficulty *decreased*. The extent to which low-income New Yorkers with children made food tradeoffs also *increased*; the extent to which New Yorkers in higher income brackets with children (again, with the exception of New Yorkers in the \$25,000-\$49,999 bracket) made these tradeoffs *decreased*.

- The percentage of unemployed New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food *increased* by 32 percent (from 41 percent in 2011 to 54 percent in 2012), whereas the percentage of employed New Yorkers reporting difficulty *decreased*. The extent to which unemployed New Yorkers made food tradeoffs also *increased*; the extent to which unemployed New Yorkers made these tradeoffs and engaged in these strategies *decreased*.

The food affordability gap between food “haves” and food “have-nots,” which widened in 2012 as low-income New Yorkers reported more difficulty affording needed food, and New Yorkers with higher incomes generally reported less difficulty, is sizeable. For instance, in 2012, there was a:

- Forty-one percentage point gap between low-income New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food, and New Yorkers in the \$75,000-plus income bracket reporting difficulty, up from a 34 percentage point gap in 2011.
- Fifty-five percentage point gap between low-income New Yorkers with children reporting difficulty affording needed food, and New Yorkers in the \$75,000-plus income bracket with children reporting difficulty, up from a 36 percentage point gap in 2011.
- Twenty-seven percentage point gap between unemployed and employed New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food, up from a seven percentage point gap in 2011.

Recovery For Whom?

The widening gap between New York’s food “haves” and food “have-nots” can be related to several factors. Certainly, these data reflect the disproportionate impact on already disadvantaged groups of a stubborn unemployment rate, persistent poverty, greater inequality, and unwelcome increases in the cost of food, all characteristics of the slow and uneven recovery from the Great Recession.

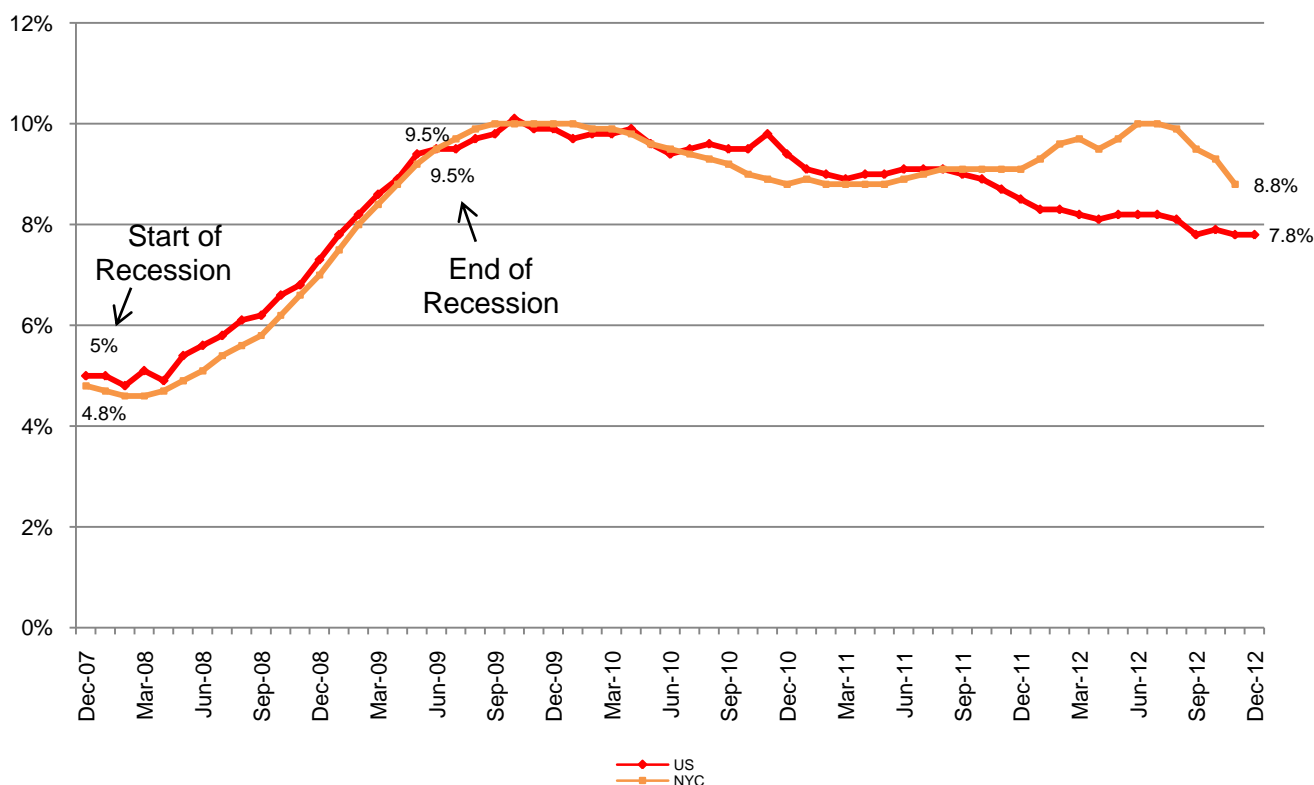
Research shows low-income New Yorkers are more likely to experience unemployment than other New Yorkers, and they are less likely to rebound from it quickly or to obtain a wage similar to what they earned before becoming unemployed.⁵ They are also less likely to have significant savings to fall back on. Unemployment therefore hits low-income New Yorkers the hardest and confronts them with food affordability challenges more intense than those faced by other groups.

Unfortunately, the unemployment rate in New York City is considerably higher than the national average. As of November 2012, the unemployment rate in New York City was 8.8 percent (approximately 351,000 people), compared to 7.8 percent (approximately 12.2 million people) in

⁵ *The Unheard Third 2010. No Recovery in Sight: The Jobs Crisis for Low-Income New Yorkers.* Community Service Society, 2010.

the United States in December 2012.⁶ Neither New York City nor the country as a whole have returned to pre-recession unemployment levels, but New York City remains farther from that point. New York City's rate remains almost double (an increase of 83 percent) what it was at the start of the recession (4.8 percent), while the United States' rate is up by only 56 percent from 5 percent unemployment in December 2007. (See Figure I.)

Figure I
Unemployment Rate in New York City and United States, December 2007 to Present⁷



The average length of time that workers who lose jobs remain unemployed was 38 weeks in December 2012, down from 40.8 weeks in December 2011, but up 130 percent from 16.6 weeks at the start of the recession.⁸ Long periods of unemployment inevitably mean increased hardship for the unemployed, as unemployment benefits can run out before new work is secured. (According to the Department of Labor, in early 2010, 75 percent of unemployed residents were receiving benefits; by November 2011, that figure was down to just 48 percent.⁹) Long periods of unemployment also increase the likelihood that a return to work will be made at a wage lower than what one was earning before, again increasing hardship.¹⁰ Last, long bouts of unemployment can discourage workers from continuing to actively search for a job.

⁶ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Analysis of unemployment benefits as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

¹⁰ *The Great Recession's Toll on Long-Term Unemployment.* Brookings Institute, 2010.

Note that the official unemployment rate does not count those who are no longer actively searching for work. A more comprehensive measure of unemployment shows that as of December 2012, 14.4 percent of the U.S. workforce, or approximately 22.7 million people, did not have adequate employment, including 12.2 million unemployed workers, 7.9 million underemployed workers who had part-time positions but wanted full-time employment and 2.6 million marginally attached workers who were willing and able to work full-time, but did not search for a job in the previous four weeks because of bleak prospects.¹¹

Whether one is “classically” unemployed, working part-time, or too discouraged to continue to job search, unemployment often makes affording food a challenge. This challenge may be long-lasting when unemployment turns into more than just a temporary hardship. It can become a permanent or semi-permanent condition, and it can push households over the brink and into poverty.

Poverty intensifies food affordability issues for both the unemployed and those laboring at low-wage jobs. In 2012, the proportion of New York City residents living below the federal poverty level had increased by more than 13 percent since the start of the Great Recession, leaving 21 percent of residents, or 1.7 million people, living in poverty and theoretically possessing less than half the household income they would need to meet minimum needs.¹² The poverty rate in New York City is now higher than it has been in a decade. Perhaps even more disturbing, in 2012, almost one-third of children (30 percent or 521,000) were living below the federal poverty level.¹³

Although alarming in and of itself, the poverty rate paints only part of a striking picture of inequality which forms the context for the food hardships outlined above. Nationally, disparities between higher and lower income groups are widening for the first time since 1993 (the earliest year for which comparable data is available). The 2012 Census revealed that income inequality, as measured by changes in the share of aggregate household income by quintiles, increased between 2010 and 2011. While the top 5 percent gained 5.3 percent in income in 2011, the second lowest, middle, and fourth lowest quintiles all lost income over the year.¹⁴ In New York City, income inequality is greater than average, and increasing. A recent report issued by the New York City Comptroller’s office noted that “New York City’s income distribution is significantly more skewed than the nation’s.”¹⁵ In 2011, median income for New York’s lowest-earning quintile was \$8,844, down \$463 from 2010; median income for the highest-earning quintile, \$223,285, up \$1,919.¹⁶

Note that when unemployment or poverty strike, bills continue to accrue, and basic necessities like food don’t go away. Over the past year, in the face of entrenched unemployment, increasing

¹¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

¹² Even these figures may be under-estimates, given broad agreement that the federal poverty level is an outdated calculation that does not adequately reflect need. Developed in 1960, the measure is a multiplier of the minimum required to feed a family and does not take into account the cost of basic necessities such as housing, utilities, clothing or health care, nor does it reflect geographical differences in the cost of living. It currently stands at approximately \$18,500 for a family of three. Research on basic living expenses conducted by Columbia University’s National Center for Children in Poverty shows that U.S. families need, on average, an income of approximately twice (200 percent) the federal poverty level to meet basic needs, and 250 percent the federal poverty level in New York City (owing to higher costs of living).

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau.

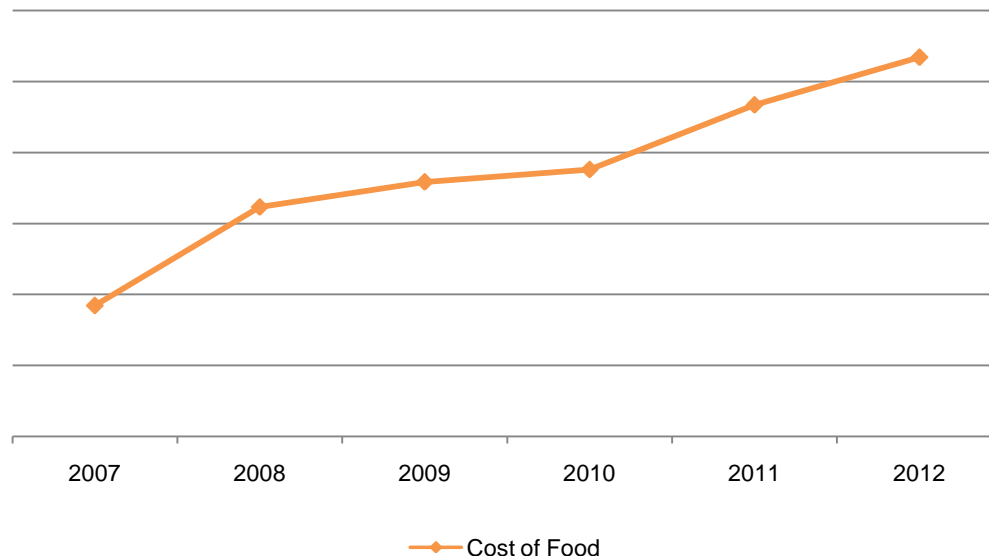
¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau.

¹⁵ *Income Inequality in New York City*. New York City Comptroller’s Office, 2012.

¹⁶ *Ibid*.

poverty and greater inequality, the dent that groceries make in household budgets in the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area has increased. As illustrated in Figure II, the cost of food increased by 3 percent between November 2011 and November 2012, and by 16 percent between December 2007 (the start of the Great Recession) and November 2012.¹⁷

Figure II
Cost of Food in New York Metropolitan Statistical Area,
2007 to 2012¹⁸



Strengthening the Safety Net

All of these data indicate that groups at the bottom of the economic ladder are falling further behind on food affordability and hunger- and nutrition related indices, while the performance of groups with higher incomes is generally improving. The gap between food “haves” and food “have-nots” has widened, as a weak recovery from the Great Recession has put even more pressure on already disadvantaged groups. Although the government’s safety net, and other sources of food assistance (like Food Bank For New York City’s member agencies) have undoubtedly proven essential in helping many New Yorkers keep food on the table, it has not prevented significant levels of hardship among residents who are low-income, low-income with children, or unemployed.

The percentage of low-income New Yorkers, low-income New Yorkers with children, and unemployed New Yorkers reporting difficulty affording needed food would probably have been higher were it not for both government nutrition assistance programs (like SNAP, WIC¹⁹ and

¹⁷ Consumer Price Index 2012. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures are calculated for the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.

school meals) and the continued efforts made by emergency food programs to provide for New Yorkers in need. However, significant threats to the safety net loom, particularly in ongoing Farm Bill negotiations and in the cuts outlined in the pending federal deficit reduction agreement. Clearly, reductions in their scope or benefits would raise the rates at which New Yorkers, including the city's most vulnerable, report difficulty affording food and make food tradeoffs in order to continue to eat. Reductions would also put additional pressure on private emergency food programs, like food pantries and soup kitchens, at a time when they are showing strain. (In 2011-12, 63 percent of food pantries and soup kitchens reported that they had run out of food, or particular types of food needed to produce adequate pantry bags or nutritious meals, at some point during the previous twelve months. Forty percent of food pantries and soup kitchens reported turning away participants, and over 80 percent reported that they had done so because of a lack of food.)²⁰ It is imperative that government programs that contribute so essentially to the health and well-being of New York's citizens, including its neediest, be protected.

Moreover, this research makes clear that nutrition assistance programs alone are not a sustainable solution to the food affordability problem in New York City. The costs of housing, transportation and healthcare for many New Yorkers are measured not only in dollars but in nutrition. Against the costs of measures to protect and expand affordable housing and healthcare are the external benefits of enabling New Yorkers to continue to afford food. In addition, creation of living-wage jobs will do much to erase the gap between New York City's food "haves" and "have-nots."

²⁰ *Serving Under Stress Post-Recession: The State of Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Today*. Food Bank For New York City, 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS

NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS

- In 2012, almost one in three New York City residents (32 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food. This percentage represents approximately 2.6 million people.
- Although the percentage of New York City residents having difficulty affording food has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008, when it stood at 48 percent, it has yet to decrease to the level it was at the start of the poll in 2003 (25 percent).
- To cope with food affordability challenges, almost one in three New York City residents (30 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from almost two in five (38 percent) in 2011; and almost one in five residents (17 percent) purchased less healthy food, down from one in five (20 percent) in 2011.
- To save food or money, almost one in three New York City residents (32 percent) ate smaller meals; almost one in four (22 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; more than one in six (17 percent) skipped meals; almost one in six (16 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; and more than one in ten (13 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime.
- To stretch their grocery dollar, almost one in three New York City residents (30 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish; almost one in four (22 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and one in five (20 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables.
- To stretch their grocery dollar, one in three New York City residents (33 percent) bought more pasta or rice; almost one in three (32 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; and more than one in four (28 percent) bought more bread or cereal.
- Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, 17 percent of New York City residents reported that they had been unable, during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. Sixteen percent reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities; 14 percent, because they had to pay for transportation; and 13 percent, because they had to pay for medicine or medical care.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- In 2012, a higher percentage of low-income New York City residents had difficulty affording needed food than residents in other income groups. More than half of New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (53 percent) reported difficulty, up 6 percent from 2011 (50 percent).

- The next lowest income bracket, including residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999, also showed increases in percentage of residents having difficulty affording food. In 2012, more than two in five residents with annual household incomes of between \$25,000 and \$49,999 (43 percent) reported having difficulty affording food, up 5 percent from 2011 (41 percent).
- In contrast, the percentage of New York City residents in higher-income groups having difficulty affording food decreased since 2011. In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, the percentage of residents having difficulty decreased by 31 percent – from 32 percent in 2011 to 22 percent in 2012. In the \$75,000 or more bracket, this percentage decreased by 25 percent – from 16 percent in 2011 to 12 percent in 2012.
- In all income brackets, the percentage of residents having difficulty affording food increased from 2003. Among residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000, difficulty increased by 8 percent from 2003 (49 percent); among residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999, difficulty increased by 105 percent from 2003 (21 percent); among residents with annual household incomes of between \$50,000 and \$74,999, difficulty increased by 57 percent from 2003 (14 percent); and among residents with annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more, difficulty increased by 200 percent from 2003 (4 percent).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

- Households with children continue to have greater than average difficulty affording food. In 2012, almost two in five New York City households with children (39 percent) had difficulty affording needed food.
- Although the percentage of New York City households with children having difficulty affording needed food has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008, when it stood at 56 percent, it has yet to decline to the level it was at the start of the poll in 2003 (32 percent).
- To cope with food affordability challenges, more than one in three New York City households with children (35 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from more than two in five (41 percent) in 2011; and almost one in four (23 percent) purchased less healthy food, up from more than one in five (22 percent) in 2011.
- To save food or money, almost one in three New York City households with children (32 percent) ate smaller meals; more than one in five (22 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; almost one in five (18 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; almost one in five (18 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime; and more than one in seven (15 percent) skipped meals.
- To stretch their grocery dollar, more than one in three New York City households with children (34 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish; one in four (25 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost one in four (23 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables.

- To stretch their grocery dollar, almost two in five New York City households with children (38 percent) bought more pasta or rice; more than one in three (37 percent) bought more bread or cereal; and more than one in three (35 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts.
- Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in five households with children (22 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. Almost one in five households with children (19 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities. Almost one in six households with children (15 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation. More than one in ten households with children (12 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care.

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

- In 2012, almost three in four New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (70 percent) had difficulty affording needed food. The percentage having difficulty is up 30 percent from 2011 (54 percent), representing the biggest increase since the start of the poll in 2003 and the biggest increase of any population group in this year's poll.
- Although the percentage of New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 having difficulty affording food has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008, when it stood at 77 percent, it has yet to decline to the level it was at the start of the poll in 2003 (58 percent).
- To cope with food affordability challenges, more than two in five New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (45 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from almost half (48 percent) in 2011; and more than one in three (35 percent) purchased less healthy food, up from almost one in three (30 percent) in 2011.
- To save food or money, almost half of New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (48 percent) ate smaller meals; one in three (33 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; almost one in three (30 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; more than one in four (29 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime; and one in four (25 percent) skipped meals.
- To stretch their grocery dollar, more than half of New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (54 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish; two in five (40 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost two in five (38 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables.

- To stretch their grocery dollar, more than half of New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (55 percent) bought more bread or cereal; more than half (52 percent) bought more pasta or rice; and half (50 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts.
- Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, two in five New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (40 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. More than one in three households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (34 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities. One in four households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (25 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation. More than one in five households with children with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (22 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care.

EMPLOYMENT

- In 2012, more than half of unemployed New York City residents (54 percent) had difficulty affording needed food, representing a 32 percent increase from 2011 (41 percent).
- To cope with food affordability challenges, more than half of unemployed New York City residents (52 percent) purchased less food to save money, up from more than two in five (46 percent) in 2011; and almost one in three (30 percent) purchased less healthy food, up from almost one in four (24 percent) in 2011.
- To save food or money, half of unemployed New York City residents (50 percent) ate smaller meals; more than one in three (36 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; almost one in three (30 percent) skipped meals; almost one in four (24 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; and almost one in five (19 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime.
- In order to stretch their grocery dollar, more than half of unemployed New York City residents (52 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish; almost two in five (38 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost two in five (38 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables.
- In order to stretch their grocery dollar, almost three in five unemployed New York City residents (58 percent) bought more pasta or rice; more than half (52 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; and almost half (47 percent) bought more bread or cereal.
- Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in three unemployed New York City residents (36 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for

rent. Almost one in three unemployed residents (30 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities. More than one in four unemployed residents (26 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation. One in five unemployed residents (20 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care.

GENDER

- Female New York City residents are consistently more vulnerable to food affordability issues than male residents. In 2012, there was a six percentage point difference in the proportions of male residents (28 percent) and female residents (34 percent) having difficulty affording food.
- To cope with food affordability challenges, one in three female New York City residents (33 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from two in five (40 percent) in 2011; and almost one in five (19 percent) purchased less healthy food, up from 18 percent in 2011.
- To save food or money, one in three female New York City residents (33 percent) ate smaller meals; almost one in five (19 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; almost one in six (16 percent) skipped meals; more than one in seven (15 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; and almost one in seven (14 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime.
- Male residents used some food conservation and strategies more often than female residents – for instance, they skipped meals more frequently (men, 18 percent; women, 16 percent); they ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes more frequently (men, 24 percent; women, 19 percent); and they were more likely to eliminate holiday meals or Sunday dinners (men, 16 percent; women, 15 percent).
- In order to stretch their grocery dollar, almost one in three female New York City residents (31 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish; almost one in four (23 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and one in five (20 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables.
- In order to stretch their grocery dollar, more than one in three female New York City residents (35 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; more than one in three (34 percent) bought more pasta or rice; and almost one in three (30 percent) bought more bread or cereal.
- Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, almost one in five female New York City residents (18 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. More than one in seven female residents (15 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities. Almost one in seven female residents (14 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation. More than one in ten female residents (13 percent) reported that they

could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care. Male residents were more likely than female residents to pay for utilities instead of food (men, 17 percent; women, 15 percent).

AGE

- New York City residents ages 50 to 64 reported the most difficulty affording needed food in 2011. In 2012, more than one in three New York City residents ages 50 to 64 (35 percent) experienced difficulty affording food. This represents a 40 percent increase from 2003 (25 percent).
- To cope with food affordability challenges, one in three New York City residents ages 50 to 64 (33 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from two in five (40 percent) in 2011; and almost one in five (19 percent) purchased less healthy food, up from two in five (20 percent) in 2011.
- To save food or money, more than one in four residents ages 36 to 49 (26 percent) and 65 and older (26 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes, compared to almost one in six residents ages 50 to 64 (16 percent). Residents ages 18 to 34 were less likely to serve fewer members at mealtime (9 percent) than other age groups, but were more likely to eliminate holiday meals or Sunday dinners (27 percent).
- New York City residents ages 36 to 49, and residents ages 50 to 64, were more likely than residents in other age groups to pay for basic necessities instead of food, with a few exceptions. A higher percentage of New York City residents ages 65 and older reported paying for medicine or medical care instead of food (16 percent); and a higher percentage of residents ages 18 to 35 reported paying for child care instead of food (7 percent), and tuition or student loans instead of food (15 percent).

EDUCATION

- New York City residents with some college or an Associate's degree had the highest percentage of difficulty affording food. Forty-four percent of residents with some college or an Associate's degree experienced difficulty affording food during 2012, representing an increase of 19 percent from 2011 (37 percent) and an increase of 100 percent from 2003 (22 percent).
- The percentage of New York City residents with a high school degree or below (38 percent), or some college or an Associate's degree (36 percent), that reported purchasing less food to save money was higher than that of residents with a college degree (26 percent) or a graduate/professional degree (17 percent). Approximately two in five residents with a high school degree or below (42 percent) and some college or an Associate's degree (40 percent) reported eating smaller meals to save food or money, compared to more than one in four residents with a college degree (26 percent) and more than one in ten residents with a graduate/professional degree (13 percent).

- Residents with a high school degree or below, and those with some college or an Associate's degree, reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish (41 percent and 32 percent, respectively); less dairy (34 percent and 26 percent, respectively); and less fresh fruits and vegetables (29 percent and 25 percent, respectively) compared to residents at other levels of educational attainment.
- More than one in four New York City residents with a high school degree or below (26 percent) reported paying for rent instead of food. This percentage is higher than residents at other levels of educational attainment.

RACE/ETHNICITY

- During 2012, Latino/Hispanic and Black/African-American residents in New York City had the most difficulty affording food. Almost two in five Latino/Hispanic residents (39 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012, down by 3 percent from 2011 (40 percent), and down by 17 percent from 2003 (47 percent). Among Black/African American residents, 35 percent experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012. This percentage represents a 20 percent decrease from 2011 (44 percent) and a 9 percent increase from 2003 (32 percent).
- Latino/Hispanic residents in New York City (39 percent) were more likely than Black/African-American residents (34 percent) and White/Caucasian residents (23 percent) to report buying less food to save money. Similarly, Latino/Hispanic residents were more likely to report eating smaller meals to save food or money (39 percent) than Black/African-American (34 percent) or White/Caucasian residents (21 percent).
- Latino/Hispanic residents were more likely than Black/African-American and White/Caucasian residents to report buying less healthy food to save money (24 percent versus 20 percent and 11 percent, respectively).
- More than one in four Latino/Hispanic residents and Black/African-American residents (26 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables, compared to more than one in ten White/Caucasian residents (12 percent). Both Latino/Hispanic and Black/African American residents (28 percent) were more likely to report buying less dairy, and to report buying less meat, poultry, or fish (37 percent and 36 percent, respectively) than White/Caucasian residents (13 percent and 21 percent, respectively).
- Latino/Hispanic (27 percent) and Black/African-American residents (21 percent) were more likely than White/Caucasian residents (7 percent) to pay for rent instead of food and to make all other financial tradeoffs.

- Almost one in four Latino/Hispanic residents (23 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income and almost half (48 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months, a decrease of 2 percent since 2011 (49 percent) and of 9 percent since 2003 (53 percent). Although White/Caucasian residents were the least likely not to be able to afford food after losing their annual household income, they were the only group to register an increase from 2011.

BOROUGH

Note: this survey was conducted prior to Super Storm Sandy, which had severe local impacts in many New York City communities. This borough analysis does not reflect any food affordability issues caused by the storm.

- More Bronx residents reported difficulty affording needed food than residents in any other New York City boroughs. Forty-three percent of Bronx residents experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012, followed by 31 percent of Brooklyn residents, 31 percent of Queens residents, 28 percent of Manhattan residents, and 20 percent of Staten Island residents.
- Many residents in all boroughs bought less meat, poultry, or fish to stretch their grocery dollar. Almost one in three Bronx residents (32 percent); almost one in three Queens residents (31 percent); almost one in three Staten Island residents (29 percent); and almost one in three Brooklyn residents (28 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, and fish. Manhattan was the only borough to show an increase in residents buying less meat, poultry, and fish since 2011 (29 percent).
- More than one in four Staten Island residents (27 percent); more than one in five Bronx and Queens residents (24 percent); and almost one in five Manhattan and Brooklyn residents (20 percent and 19 percent, respectively) reported eating meals at friends' or relatives' homes.

With the exception of Queens and Staten Island, paying for rent instead of food was the financial tradeoff most frequently made by residents of all boroughs, followed by paying for utilities instead of food.

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS

- Almost one in three New York City veteran households (29 percent) reported difficulty affording food, representing an increase of 16 percent from 2011 (25 percent).
- More than one in three New York City veteran households (37 percent) reported that they had eaten smaller meals to save food or money, up from almost one in three (32 percent) in 2011; almost one in three veteran households (32 percent) reported that they had bought less food to save money, up from more than one in four (28 percent) in

2011; and almost one in six veteran households (15 percent) reported that they had skipped meals, up from more than one in seven (14 percent) in 2011.

- Almost one in five New York City veteran households (19 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables to stretch their grocery dollar; one in five (20 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost one in three (29 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish.

Almost one in six New York City veteran households (16 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. Almost one in six veteran households (16 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities. Almost one in six (16 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation. More than one in six (17 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care.

FINDINGS

HUNGER EXPERIENCE POLL

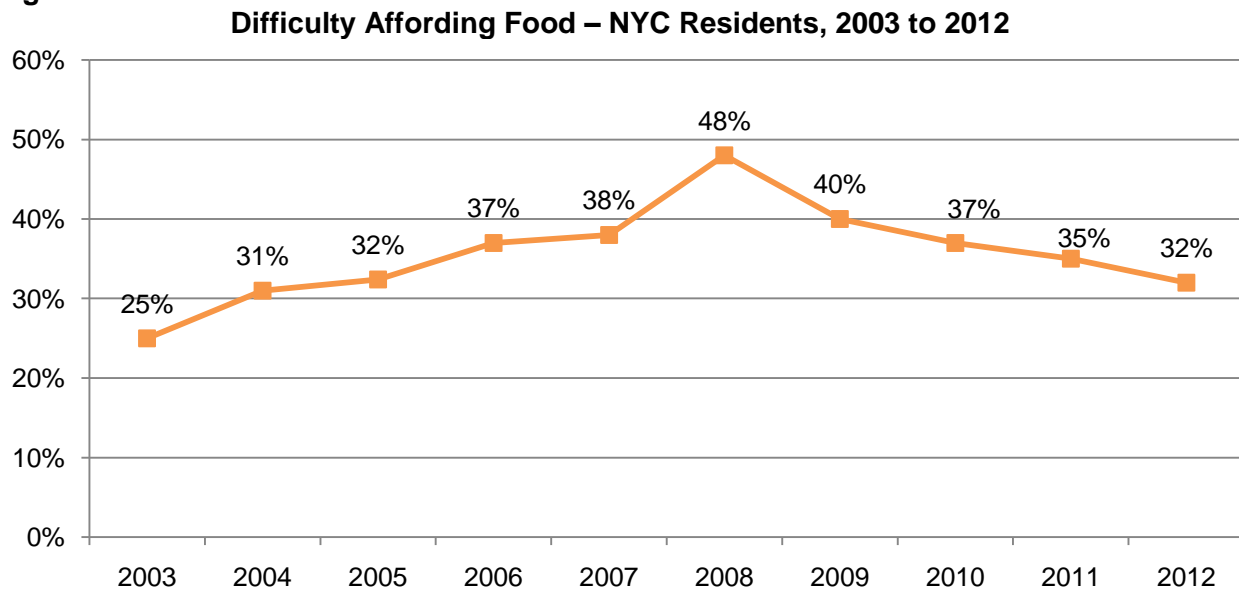
Food Bank For New York City contracts with the Marist Institute for Public Opinion to conduct telephone interviews on food affordability and hunger-and nutrition-related issues with a random and representative sample of New York City residents. Socio-demographic data collected during these interviews allows for the identification of differences within and among particular populations. Results contained in this report are based on an analysis of trend data from 2003 (the earliest year the poll was conducted) through 2012, additional trend data available from 2008 through 2012 only, and questions asked in 2011 or 2012 for the first time.

This year's report (2012) finds a dramatic increase in the percentage of low-income and unemployed residents reporting difficulty affording food in the context of a recent and continued decline overall. It examines the tradeoffs New Yorkers make to pay for food and keep their grocery bills affordable, and it provides comprehensive trend data on what a loss of household income would mean to residents' ability to afford food and how at-risk residents perceive themselves to be for needing food assistance in the future.

NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS

In New York City, 32 percent of residents (approximately 2.6 million people) experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2012. This percentage represents a nine percent decrease from 35 percent in 2011. Despite the fact that the percent of residents having difficulty affording food decreased since the height of the recession in 2008, when it stood at 48 percent, there has been a 28 percent increase since 2003 (25 percent), as illustrated by Figure 1.

Figure 1



To cope with food affordability challenges, almost one in three New York City residents (30 percent) purchased less food to save money, down from almost two in five (38 percent) in 2011;

and almost one in five residents (17 percent) purchased less healthy food, down from one in five (20 percent) in 2011.

Table 1

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – NYC Residents, 2011 to 2012

NYC Residents	2011	2012
Bought Less Food to Save Money	38%	30%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	20%	17%

To save food or money, almost one in three residents (32 percent) reported that they had eaten smaller meals, similar to the rate in 2011 (32 percent); and almost one in five (17 percent) reported that they had skipped meals, down from more than one in five in 2011 (21 percent), as indicated in Table 2.

New York City residents facing food affordability issues also changed meal patterns. As indicated in Table 2, more than one in five residents (22 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes, down from more than one in four in 2011 (26 percent); and more than one in ten (13 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime, down from almost one in five in 2011 (18 percent). The percentage of New Yorkers that eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased by 45 percent, from more than one in ten residents (11 percent) in 2011 to almost one in six (16 percent) in 2012.

Table 2

Food Conservation Strategies – NYC Residents, 2011 to 2012

NYC Residents	2011	2012
Ate Smaller Meals	32%	32%
Skipped Meals	21%	17%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	26%	22%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	18%	13%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	16%

With respect to the quality of food purchased, one in five residents (20 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables to stretch their grocery dollar, down from more than one in four in 2011 (27 percent); more than one in five (22 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese), down from more than one in four in 2011 (27 percent); and almost one in three (30 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish, down from more than one in three in 2011 (35 percent). These results are presented in Table 3.

One in three residents (33 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar; almost one in three (32 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; and more than one in four (28 percent) bought more bread or cereal, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3**Food Tradeoffs – NYC Residents, 2011 to 2012**

NYC Residents	2011	2012
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	20%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	27%	22%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	35%	30%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	32%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	28%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	33%

As shown in Table 4, more than one in six New York City residents (17 percent) reported that they had been unable, during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent, down from 18 percent in 2011. Almost one in six (16 percent) residents reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities, down from one in five (20 percent) in 2011; and almost one in seven (14 percent), because they had to pay for transportation, down from almost one in five (17 percent) in 2011. The same percentage of New York City residents reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care in both 2011 and 2012 (13 percent).

The tradeoffs made least often by residents facing food affordability was paying for child care instead of food (five percent), and paying for tuition or student loans instead of food (nine percent).

Table 4**Competing Living Expenses – NYC Residents, 2011 to 2012**

NYC Residents	2011	2012
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	18%	17%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	20%	16%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	17%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	13%	13%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Paid for Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	9%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in ten New York City residents (11 percent) reported that they were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food.

As shown in Table 5, one in five New York City residents (20 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income in 2012, the same percentage as 2011, but representing an 18 percent increase from 2003 (17 percent). Additionally, more than two in five residents (41 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income. This percentage represents a 2 percent decrease from 2011 (42 percent), but a 3 percent increase from 2003 (40 percent).

Table 5**Impact of Loss of Income – NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food, 2003 to 2012**

NYC Residents	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Immediately	17%	17%	21%	21%	20%	23%	18%	19%	20%	20%
0-3 months	40%	39%	44%	45%	45%	45%	39%	45%	42%	41%

Almost one in three New York City residents (29 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown in Table 6. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 12 percent decrease from 2011 (33 percent), and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (42 percent), the earliest data available.

Table 6**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – NYC Residents, 2008 to 2012**

NYC Residents	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Concerned about Needing Food Assistance in Next 12 Months	42%	31%	32%	33%	29%

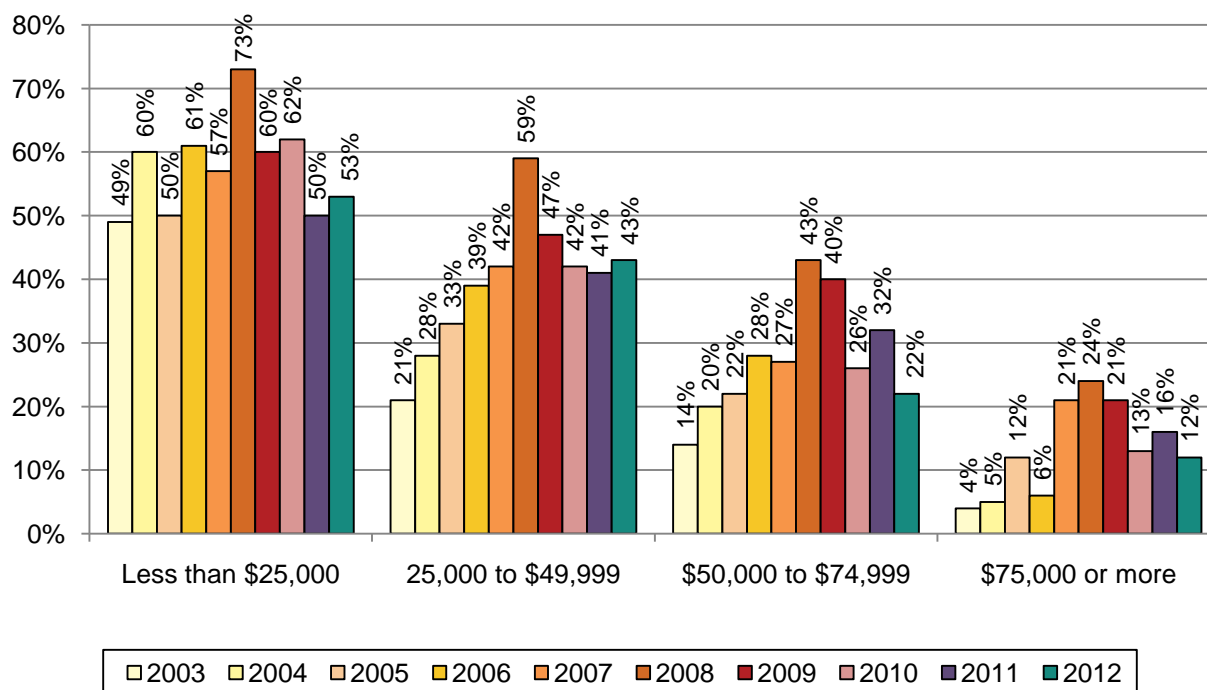
ANALYSIS BY ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2012, more low-income New York City residents reported having difficulty affording needed food than any other income group. As illustrated by Figure 2, more than half of New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (53 percent) experienced difficulty affording food during 2012, up 6 percent from 2011 (50 percent). Residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999 also reported increases in difficulty affording food. In 2012, more than two in five residents with annual household incomes of between \$25,000 and \$49,999 (43 percent) reported difficulty affording food, up five percent from 2011 (41 percent).

Higher-income groups saw decreases in the percentage of residents having difficulty affording needed food. In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, for instance, this percentage decreased by 31 percent – from 32 percent in 2011 to 22 percent in 2012. In the \$75,000 or more bracket, this percentage decreased by 25 percent – from 16 percent in 2011 to 12 percent in 2012.

In all income brackets, the percentage of residents having difficulty affording food increased from 2003. Among residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000, difficulty increased by eight percent from 2003 (49 percent); among residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999, difficulty increased by 105 percent from 2003 (21 percent); among residents with annual household incomes of between \$50,000 and \$74,999, difficulty increased by 57 percent from 2003 (14 percent); and among residents with annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more, difficulty increased by 200 percent from 2003 (four percent).

Figure 2
Difficulty Affording Food – By Annual Household Income, 2003 to 2012



Low-income New Yorkers were more likely to cut back on the quantity and quality of the food they purchased than residents at higher income levels, as indicated in Table 7. In 2012, more than two in five New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (42 percent) reported that they bought less food to save money, down from almost half (48 percent) in 2011; and more than one in four (28 percent) reported buying less healthy food, down from one in three (33 percent) in 2011.

Table 7

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Annual Household Income, 2012

Annual Household Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	48%	42%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	33%	28%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	39%	44%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	24%	25%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	40%	27%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	18%	11%
\$75,000 or more		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	25%	16%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	7%	5%

More than half of New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (52 percent) reported that they ate smaller meals in order to save food or money and almost one in three (32 percent) reported that they had skipped meals, as indicated in Table 8.

The percentage of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 that reported eating smaller meals to deal with food affordability issues increased from more than two in five residents (43 percent) in 2011 to more than half (52 percent) in 2012. Likewise, the percentage of residents skipping meals increased from 31 percent in 2011 to 32 percent in 2012.

New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 also changed their meal patterns to cope with food affordability issues. As illustrated in Table 8, more than one in four residents (29 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; more than one in four (28 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; and almost one in four (24 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime. The percentage of low-income residents eliminating holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from almost one in five residents (18 percent) in 2011 to more than one in four (27 percent) in 2012.

Table 8**Food Conservation Strategies – By Annual Household Income, 2012**

Annual Household Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Ate Smaller Meals	43%	52%
Skipped Meals	31%	32%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	34%	29%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	26%	24%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	18%	28%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Ate Smaller Meals	37%	36%
Skipped Meals	25%	20%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	25%	22%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	26%	17%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	12%	15%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Ate Smaller Meals	30%	33%
Skipped Meals	16%	12%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	31%	19%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	12%	9%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	9%	12%
\$75,000 or more		
Ate Smaller Meals	18%	17%
Skipped Meals	9%	6%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	14%	14%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	9%	5%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	5%	7%

With respect to nutritional sacrifices, more than half of residents (52 percent) with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reported that they had purchased less meat, poultry, or fish; more than two in five (42 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g. milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost two in five (39 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables, as indicated in Table 9.

The percentage of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reporting that they had purchased less meat, poultry, or fish increased from more than two in five (47 percent) in 2011 to more than half (52 percent) in 2012. Likewise, the percentage reporting that they purchased less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese) increased from two in five residents (40 percent) in 2011 to more than two in five (42 percent) in 2012. The percentage of low-income residents reporting other food and nutrition sacrifices, as presented in Table 9, decreased during the same time period.

More than half of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (51 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar; almost half (49 percent) bought more pasta or rice; and more than two in five (42 percent) bought more bread or cereal.

Table 9

Food Tradeoffs – By Annual Household Income, 2012

Annual Household Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	42%	39%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	40%	42%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	47%	52%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	51%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	42%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	49%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	35%	31%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	30%	33%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	40%	36%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	40%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	39%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	48%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	10%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	30%	22%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	38%	23%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	31%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	20%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	28%
\$75,000 or more		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	11%	7%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	10%	5%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	23%	14%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	15%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	13%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	17%

New York City residents at higher income levels engaged in food tradeoffs less frequently, but still noticeably. For instance, almost half of residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000 (48 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar; two in five (40 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; and almost two in five (39 percent) bought more bread or cereal. In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, almost one in three (31 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar, and more than one in four (28 percent) bought more pasta or rice. Almost one in five New York City residents with annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more (17 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar.

As shown in Table 10, more than one in three New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (34 percent) reported that they had been unable, at some point during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent. Almost one in three residents (30 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities; 26 percent, because they had to pay for transportation; and 23 percent, because

they had to pay for medicine or medical care. The percentage of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reporting that they paid for rent, or medicine or medical care, instead of food increased between 2011 and 2012.

The tradeoffs made least often by low-income residents facing food affordability issues was paying for childcare instead of food (five percent) and paying for tuition or student loans instead of food (13 percent).

New York City residents at higher income levels reported making tradeoffs like these less frequently. One in four residents with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000 (25 percent) paid for rent instead of food; 22 percent paid for utilities instead of food; and 21 percent paid for transportation instead of food.

Table 10
Competing Living Expenses – By Annual Household Income, 2011 to 2012

Annual Household Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	30%	34%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	34%	30%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	27%	26%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	19%	23%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	13%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	22%	25%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	26%	22%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	20%	21%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	18%	16%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	11%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	14%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	14%	9%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	13%	11%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	10%	6%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	10%	12%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	2%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	7%
\$75,000 or more		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	7%	4%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	9%	4%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	6%	4%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	6%	4%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	2%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	5%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in five New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (22 percent) reported that they were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, followed by almost one in six residents in the \$25,000 to 49,999 bracket (16 percent), seven percent of residents in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, and three percent of residents in the \$75,000 or more category.

As shown in Table 11, almost one in three New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (30 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income, representing a 14 percent decrease from 2011 (35 percent), but consistent with findings in 2003 (30 percent). In contrast, the percentage of residents that would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income either increased or stayed the same for residents in the \$25,000 to \$49,999, \$50,000 to \$74,999, and \$75,000 or more income brackets from 2011 to 2012. The percentage of residents that would not be able to afford food immediately either increased or stayed the same for those income groups since 2003.

More than three in five residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (61 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income, down by 3 percent from 2011 (63 percent), but up 15 percent from 2003 (53 percent). Higher-income groups also saw decreases in the percentage of residents who would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income. In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, this percentage decreased by 9 percent – from 33 percent in 2011 to 30 percent in 2012. In the \$75,000 or more bracket, this percentage decreased by 14 percent – from 22 percent in 2011 to 19 percent in 2012. The only income group to see increases in the percentage of residents who would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income was in the \$25,000 to \$49,999 bracket. In this income group, the percentage increased by 12 percent – from 52 percent in 2011 to 58 percent in 2012.

Table 11

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Annual Household Income, 2003 to 2012**

Annual Household Income	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000										
<i>Immediately</i>	30%	29%	29%	34%	29%	43%	29%	36%	35%	30%
<i>0-3 months</i>	53%	57%	60%	61%	60%	61%	55%	68%	63%	61%
\$25,000 to \$49,999										
<i>Immediately</i>	16%	17%	26%	26%	26%	26%	28%	21%	27%	29%
<i>0-3 months</i>	50%	46%	54%	53%	53%	54%	52%	54%	52%	58%
\$50,000 to \$74,999										
<i>Immediately</i>	10%	10%	16%	16%	18%	10%	11%	10%	14%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	33%	33%	36%	46%	47%	42%	40%	34%	33%	30%
\$75,000 or more										
<i>Immediately</i>	7%	4%	9%	5%	9%	11%	8%	6%	7%	7%
<i>0-3 months</i>	19%	15%	20%	20%	28%	28%	20%	24%	22%	19%

One-half of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (50 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown in Table 12. This percentage represents a two percent increase from 2011 (49 percent) but a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (72 percent), the earliest data available.

All higher-income groups saw decreases in the percentage of residents concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. For instance, in the \$25,000 to \$49,999 bracket, this percentage decreased by seven percent – from 45 percent in 2011 to 42 percent in 2012. In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, this percentage decreased by 30 percent – from 27 percent in 2011 to 19 percent in 2012. In the \$75,000 or more bracket, this percentage decreased by 18 percent – from 11 percent in 2011 to nine percent in 2012.

Table 12
Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Annual Household Income, 2008 to 2012²¹

Annual Household Income	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000	72%	52%	54%	49%	50%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	53%	39%	34%	45%	42%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	36%	25%	24%	27%	19%
\$75,000 or more	18%	11%	9%	11%	9%

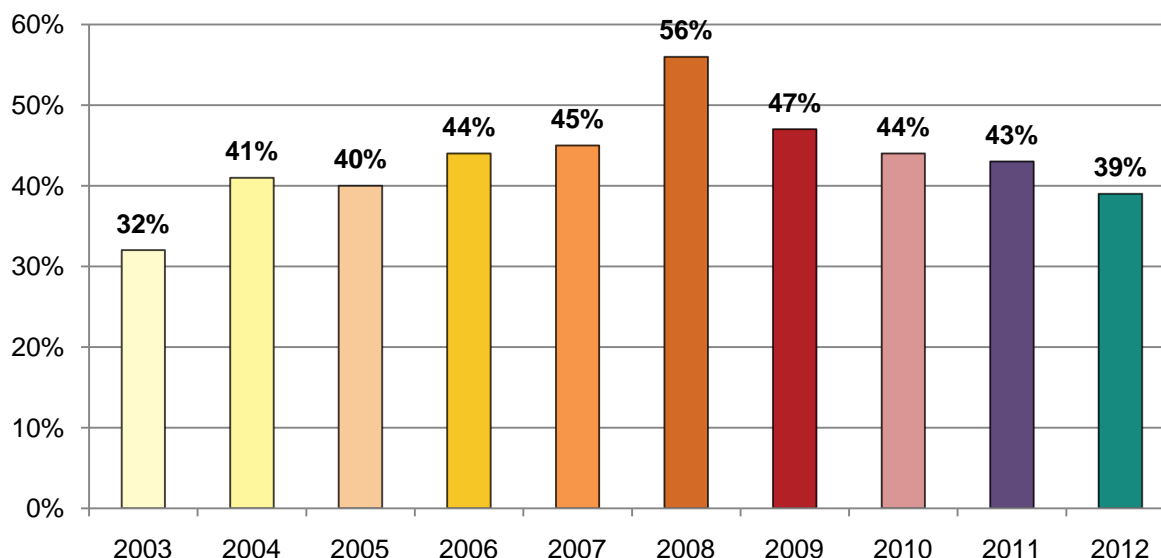
²¹ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Almost two in five New York City households with children (39 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012, as illustrated by Figure 3. This represents a nine percent decrease from 2011 (43 percent), but a 22 percent increase from 2003 (32 percent).

Figure 3

Difficulty Affording Food – By Households with Children, 2003 to 2012



Almost three in four New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (70 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food for themselves and their families in 2012, as shown in Table 13. The percentage having difficulty is up 30 percent from 2011 (54 percent), representing the biggest increase since the start of the poll in 2003. In every other income group, the percentage of households with children having difficulty decreased since 2011. For instance, almost half of households with children with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999 (49 percent) had difficulty affording needed food, representing a 17 percent decrease from 2011 (59 percent).

Table 13

Difficulty Affording Food – By Households with Children By Annual Income, 2003 to 2012

Household with Children By Annual Income	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000	58%	71%	56%	69%	68%	77%	72%	76%	54%	70%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	33%	49%	43%	50%	47%	76%	62%	53%	59%	49%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	24%	31%	29%	39%	29%	55%	56%	34%	48%	26%
\$75,000 or more	6%	6%	18%	11%	29%	29%	27%	14%	18%	15%

More than one in three households with children (38 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar; more than one in three (37 percent) bought more bread or cereal;

more than one in three (35 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts (see Table 16). More than one in three (34 percent) bought less meat, poultry, or fish (see Table 16).

Table 14

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Households with Children, 2012

Households with Children	2011	2012
Bought Less Food to Save Money	41%	35%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	22%	23%

Table 15

Food Conservation Strategies – By Households with Children, 2012

Households with Children	2011	2012
Ate Smaller Meals	33%	32%
Skipped Meals	19%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	28%	22%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	17%	18%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	12%	18%

Table 16

Food Tradeoffs – By Households with Children, 2012

Households with Children	2011	2012
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	26%	23%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	27%	25%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	35%	34%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	35%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	37%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	38%

To deal with difficulty affording food, low-income households with children were more likely to cut back on the quantity and quality of the food they purchased than households at higher income levels. In 2012, more than two in five households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (45 percent) reported that they bought less food to save money and more than one in three bought less healthy food (35 percent).

Table 17**Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Households with Children By Annual Income, 2012**

Households with Children By Annual Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	48%	45%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	30%	35%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	43%	46%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	26%	34%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	53%	31%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	33%	16%
\$75,000 or more		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	25%	23%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	8%	9%

Almost half of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (48 percent) reported that they ate smaller meals, and one in four reported that they skipped meals (25 percent).

To save food or money, New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 also changed the way they organized their meals. As indicated in Table 18, one in three (33 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes; almost one in three (30 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners; and almost one in three (29 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime.

Table 18

Food Conservation Strategies – By Households with Children By Annual Income, 2012

Households with Children By Annual Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Ate Smaller Meals	39%	48%
Skipped Meals	29%	25%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	40%	33%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	19%	29%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	20%	30%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Ate Smaller Meals	38%	36%
Skipped Meals	26%	25%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	32%	27%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	28%	24%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	9%	18%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Ate Smaller Meals	46%	32%
Skipped Meals	18%	16%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	35%	15%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	10%	10%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	10%	18%
\$75,000 or more		
Ate Smaller Meals	20%	20%
Skipped Meals	6%	6%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	10%	10%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	8%	7%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	5%	9%

Regarding nutrition sacrifices, more than half of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (54 percent) reported that they purchased less meat, poultry, or fish to stretch their grocery dollar; two in five (40 percent) reported that they bought less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese); and almost two in five (38 percent) that they bought less fresh fruits and vegetables.

More than one-half of households with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 (55 percent) bought more bread or cereal to stretch their grocery dollar; more than one-half (52 percent) bought more pasta or rice; and one-half (50 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts.

Table 19

Food Tradeoffs – By Households with Children By Annual Income, 2012

Households with Children By Annual Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	36%	38%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	38%	40%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	41%	54%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	50%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	55%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	52%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	32%	40%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	34%	44%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	38%	40%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	46%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	44%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	53%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	35%	8%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	40%	24%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	53%	29%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	33%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	36%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	32%
\$75,000 or more		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	8%	8%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	6%	5%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	22%	15%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	18%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	18%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	26%

New York City households with children at higher income levels made food tradeoffs less frequently, but still noticeably. For instance, more than half of households with children with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000 (53 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar; more than two in five (46 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; more than two in five (44 percent) bought more bread or cereal; and more than two in five (44 percent) bought less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese).

In the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket, more than one in three New York City households with children (36 percent) bought more bread or cereal, and one in three (33 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts. More than one in four New York City households with children with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more (26 percent) bought more pasta or rice.

As shown in Table 20, more than one in five households with children (22 percent) paid for rent instead of food, and almost one in five (19 percent) paid for utilities instead of food. More than one in seven (15 percent) paid for transportation instead of food, and more than one in ten (12 percent) paid for medicine or medical care instead of food.

Table 20

Competing Living Expenses – By Households with Children, 2012

Households with Children	2011	2012
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	24%	22%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	26%	19%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	19%	15%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	13%	12%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	12%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, almost one in seven New York City households with children (14 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food. Similarly, more than one in ten households with children (12 percent) were not happy with their ability to provide the children in their family with healthy nutritious food.

Two in five households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (40 percent) paid for rent instead of food. More than one in three households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (34 percent) paid for utilities instead of food. Among households with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000, these tradeoffs were made with similar frequency. Households with higher incomes made these, and similar tradeoffs, less frequently. See Table 21.

Table 21**Competing Living Expenses – By Households with Children By Annual Income, 2012**

Households with Children By Annual Income	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	33%	40%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	35%	34%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	28%	25%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	12%	22%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	11%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	16%
\$25,000 to \$49,000		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	30%	36%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	35%	25%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	23%	23%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	26%	9%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	11%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	18%
\$50,000 to \$74,999		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	23%	8%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	25%	13%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	15%	8%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	10%	16%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	10%
\$75,000 or more		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	9%	3%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	11%	5%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	7%	5%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	3%	4%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	4%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	5%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in five households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (21 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the children in their family with healthy, nutritious food, followed by 17 percent of households with children with annual incomes between \$25,000 to \$49,999, five percent of households with children with annual incomes between \$50,000 to \$74,999, and five percent of households with children with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more.

Similarly, more than one in five households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (23 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, followed by 20 percent of households with children with annual incomes between \$25,000 to \$49,999, 10 percent of households with children with annual incomes

between \$50,000 to \$74,999, and six percent of households with children with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more.

As shown in Table 22, more than one in four households with children (27 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual income. This represents an increase of eight percent from 2011 (25 percent), and a 35 percent increase from 2003 (20 percent). Almost half of households with children (46 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months. This is consistent with findings in 2011 (46 percent) and 2003 (46 percent).

Table 22

**Impact of Loss of Income –
Households with Children Not Able to Afford Food, 2003 to 2012**

Households with Children	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Immediately	20%	20%	25%	27%	22%	25%	18%	25%	25%	27%
0-3 months	46%	48%	52%	53%	50%	50%	43%	52%	46%	46%

As shown in Table 23, in 2012, more than two in five New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (41 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income. This represents a 5 percent increase from 2011 (39 percent) and a 3 percent increase from 2003 (40 percent). Additionally, in 2012, 70 percent of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income. This represents an eight percent increase from 2011 (65 percent) and a four percent increase from 2003 (67 percent).

Table 23

**Impact of Loss of Income –
Households with Children Not Able to Afford Food By Annual Income, 2003 to 2012**

Households with Children By Annual Income	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000										
<i>Immediately</i>	40%	32%	35%	41%	32%	46%	31%	40%	39%	41%
<i>0-3 months</i>	67%	66%	63%	70%	69%	68%	60%	83%	65%	70%
\$25,000 to \$49,999										
<i>Immediately</i>	23%	23%	35%	37%	25%	29%	29%	31%	34%	37%
<i>0-3 months</i>	65%	66%	63%	67%	56%	55%	58%	58%	52%	64%
\$50,000 to \$74,999										
<i>Immediately</i>	10%	12%	18%	19%	27%	11%	6%	19%	13%	29%
<i>0-3 months</i>	28%	36%	49%	49%	45%	47%	36%	45%	36%	46%
\$75,000 or more										
<i>Immediately</i>	9%	9%	10%	7%	9%	15%	11%	9%	10%	13%
<i>0-3 months</i>	26%	30%	27%	23%	30%	35%	28%	21%	29%	23%

More than one in three New York City households with children (36 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown in Table 24. This percentage of concerned households represents an 13 percent increase from 2011 (32 percent) and a 23 percent decrease from 2008 (47 percent), the earliest data available.

Table 24

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Households with Children, 2008 to 2012²²

Households with Children	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	47%	35%	36%	32%	36%

As shown in Table 25, more than half of New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 (54 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 6 percent increase from 2011 (51 percent) and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (78 percent), the earliest data available.

Table 25

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance –
Households with Children By Annual Income, 2008 to 2012²³**

Households with Children By Annual Income	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than \$25,000	78%	64%	62%	51%	54%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	61%	48%	38%	42%	59%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	45%	19%	33%	33%	23%
\$75,000 or more	16%	16%	11%	7%	12%

²² This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

²³ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS BY EMPLOYMENT²⁴

As shown in Table 26, more than half of unemployed New York City (54 percent) residents reported difficulty affording needed food in 2012, compared to more than one in four employed residents (27 percent). The percentage of unemployed New York City residents experiencing difficulty represents a 32 percent increase from 41 percent in 2011. In contrast, the percentage of employed residents having difficulty decreased by 21 percent from 2011 (34 percent).

Table 26

Difficulty Affording Food – By Employment Status, 2009 to 2012

Employment Status	2009	2010	2011	2012
Unemployed	58%	54%	41%	54%
Employed	37%	33%	34%	27%

Unemployed residents were more likely than employed residents to cut back on the quantity and quality of food they purchased and/or change meal patterns to deal with difficulty affording food. The strategies used most often by unemployed residents facing food affordability issues were buying more pasta or rice (58 percent); buying more beans, eggs, or nuts (52 percent); buying less meat, poultry, or fish (52 percent); buying less food to save money (52 percent); and eating smaller meals (50 percent). (See Tables 27, 28 and 29.)

Since 2011, the percentage of unemployed residents reporting food and nutrition sacrifices has increased in every category except for three. The percentage of unemployed residents buying less fresh fruit and vegetables decreased from two in five (40 percent) in 2011 to almost two in five (38 percent) in 2012; the percentage eating meals at friends' or relatives' homes decreased from almost two in five (37 percent) in 2011 to more than one in three (36 percent) in 2012; and the percentage serving fewer family members at mealtime decreased from more than one in five (21 percent) in 2011 to almost one in five (19 percent) in 2012.

By contrast, the percentage of employed residents that reported food and nutrition sacrifices decreased or stayed the same in every category except for one. Since 2011, the percentage of residents eliminating holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from more than one in ten (11 percent) in 2011 to almost one in seven (14 percent) in 2012. (See Tables 27, 28 and 29.)

Table 27

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Employment Status, 2012

Employment Status	2011	2012
Unemployed		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	46%	52%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	24%	30%
Employed		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	35%	27%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	17%	14%

²⁴ Employment status was introduced into the 2009 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

Table 28**Food Conservation Strategies – By Employment Status, 2012**

Employment Status	2011	2012
Unemployed		
Ate Smaller Meals	39%	50%
Skipped Meals	24%	30%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	37%	36%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	21%	19%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	24%
Employed		
Ate Smaller Meals	29%	29%
Skipped Meals	18%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	24%	17%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	14%	10%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	14%

Table 29**Food Tradeoffs – By Employment Status, 2012**

Employment Status	2011	2012
Unemployed		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	40%	38%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	34%	38%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	35%	52%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	52%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	47%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	58%
Employed		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	22%	17%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	23%	19%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	34%	26%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	27%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	24%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	30%

As shown in Table 30, unemployed residents were more likely than employed residents to report that they had to pay for basic necessities instead of food. More than one in three New York City unemployed residents (36 percent) paid for rent instead of food in 2012, and almost one in three (30 percent) paid for utilities instead of food.

Since 2011, the percentage of unemployed residents paying for basic necessities instead of food increased in every category, while for employed residents, the percentage decreased in every category, except in the case of medicine or medical care.

Table 30

Competing Living Expenses – By Employment Status, 2012

Employment Status	2011	2012
Unemployed		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	28%	36%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	23%	30%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	23%	26%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	17%	20%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	16%
Employed		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	17%	14%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	19%	14%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	16%	13%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	10%	11%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	4%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	10%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, one in four unemployed New York City residents (24 percent) reported that they were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, compared to more than one in ten employed residents (11 percent).

Almost one in three unemployed New York City residents (32 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income, compared to more than one in six employed residents (17 percent). More than half of unemployed residents (57 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months, compared to two in five employed residents (40 percent), as shown in Table 31.

Table 31

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Employment Status, 2009 to 2012**

Employment Status	2009	2010	2011	2012
Unemployed				
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	18%	28%	32%
<i>0-3 months</i>	52%	55%	51%	57%
Employed				
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	17%	18%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	44%	39%	40%

Almost three in five unemployed residents (59 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as illustrated by Table 32. This percentage of concerned residents represents an increase of 28 percent from 2011 (46 percent). In contrast, one in four employed residents (25 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months, representing a seven percent decrease from 2011 (27 percent).

Table 32

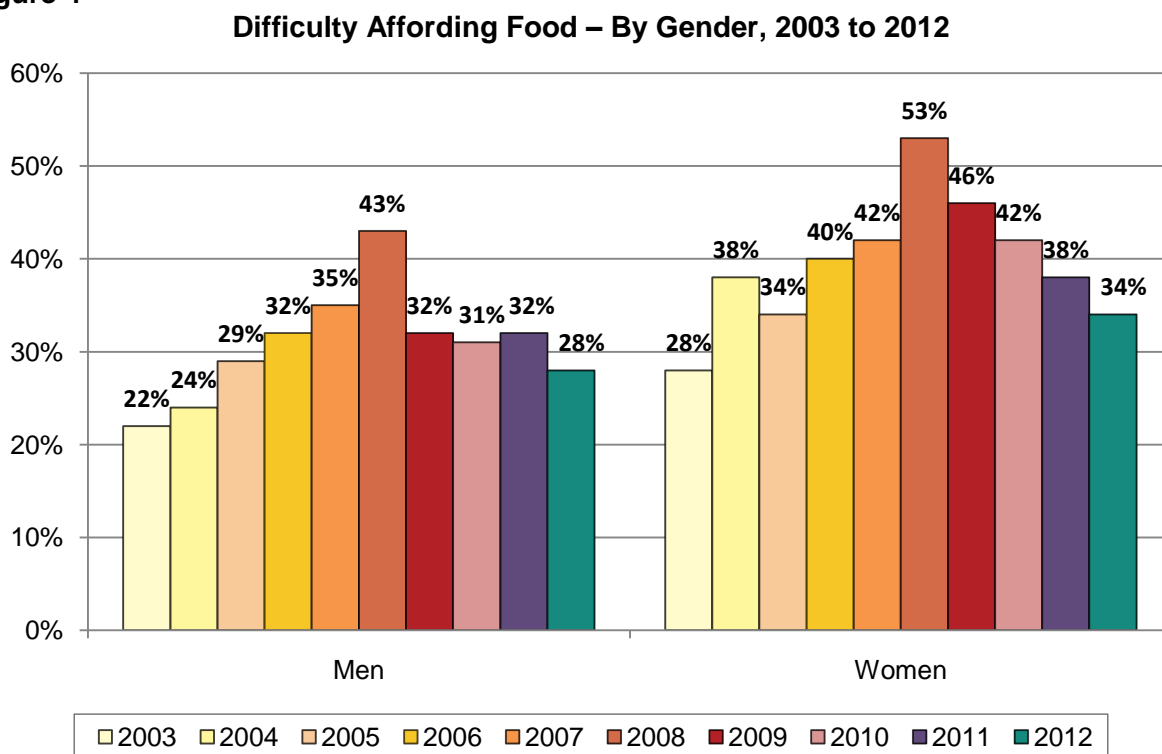
Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Employment Status, 2009 to 2012

Employment Status	2009	2010	2011	2012
Unemployed	52%	50%	46%	59%
Employed	27%	25%	27%	25%

ANALYSIS BY GENDER

As Figure 4 shows, female New York City residents have been consistently more vulnerable to food affordability issues than male residents. In 2012, there was a six percentage point difference in the proportions of male and female residents having difficulty affording food. Both genders had more difficulty affording food in 2012 than in 2003. The percentage of female residents experiencing difficulty affording food rose by 21 percent from 2003 (28 percent) to 2012 (34 percent), and the percentage of male residents experiencing difficulty rose by 27 percent from 2003 (22 percent) to 2012 (28 percent). The percentage of residents experiencing difficulty decreased for both males and females between 2011 and 2012, by 13 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

Figure 4



In 2012, as shown in Table 35, more than one in three female New York City residents (35 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts to stretch their grocery dollar and more than one in three (34 percent) bought more pasta or rice. Male residents used some food conservation strategies more often than female residents – for instance, they skipped meals more frequently (18 percent versus 16 percent); they ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes more frequently (24 percent versus 19 percent); and they were more likely to eliminate holiday meals or Sunday dinners (16 percent versus 15 percent).

Since 2011, the percentage of female and male residents reporting making food and nutrition sacrifices has decreased in every category, with a few notable exceptions. For females, there has been an increase in the percentage reporting that they bought less healthy food to save money and the percentage reporting that they eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners. For males, there has been an increase in the percentage reporting that they ate smaller meals and the percentage reporting that they eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners.

Table 33

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Gender, 2012

Gender	2011	2012
Female Residents		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	40%	33%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	18%	19%
Male Residents		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	36%	26%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	22%	14%

Table 34

Food Conservation Strategies – By Gender, 2012

Gender	2011	2012
Female Residents		
Ate Smaller Meals	33%	33%
Skipped Meals	20%	16%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	24%	19%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	18%	14%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	12%	15%
Male Residents		
Ate Smaller Meals	30%	31%
Skipped Meals	21%	18%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	28%	24%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	17%	12%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	10%	16%

Table 35**Food Consumption Strategies – By Gender, 2012**

Gender	2011	2012
Female Residents		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	20%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	25%	23%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	36%	31%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	35%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	30%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	34%
Male Residents		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	20%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	29%	21%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	35%	29%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	30%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	26%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	32%

As shown in Table 36, female New York City residents were more likely than male residents to make financial tradeoffs in all but three categories. In 2012, male residents were more likely than female residents to pay for utilities instead of food (17 percent versus 15 percent) and tuition or student loans instead of food (10 percent versus eight percent). Both male and female residents were equally likely to pay for medicine or medical care instead of food (13 percent).

Table 36**Competing Living Expenses – By Gender, 2012**

Gender	2011	2012
Female Residents		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	19%	18%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	21%	15%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	17%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	15%	13%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Male Residents		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	17%	16%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	20%	17%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	16%	13%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	12%	13%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	4%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	10%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in ten female New York City residents (11 percent) and male residents (11 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food.

Almost one in four female New York City residents (24 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income, compared to more than one in seven (15 percent) of male residents, as shown in Table 37. The percentage of female residents unable to buy food immediately after losing their annual household income decreased by four percent from 25 percent in 2011 to 24 percent in 2012, while the percentage of male residents unable to buy food immediately after losing their annual household income remained stable at 15 percent. Additionally, 44 percent of female residents would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income in 2012, compared to 37 percent of male residents. The percentage of female residents unable to buy food within three months of losing their annual household income increased by five percent from 42 percent in 2003 to 44 percent in 2012. By contrast, the percentage of male residents unable to buy food within three months of losing their household income decreased by five percent from 39 percent in 2003 to 37 percent in 2012.

Table 37

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Gender, 2003 to 2012**

Gender	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Female Residents										
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	20%	23%	26%	24%	24%	18%	22%	25%	24%
<i>0-3 months</i>	42%	46%	47%	51%	49%	45%	42%	46%	48%	44%
Male Residents										
<i>Immediately</i>	15%	13%	17%	16%	16%	21%	18%	15%	15%	15%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	31%	38%	39%	42%	44%	37%	43%	36%	37%

Almost one in three female New York City residents (31 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown in Table 38. This percentage represents a six percent decrease from 2011 (33 percent) and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (45 percent), the earliest data available. More than one in four male residents (27 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 16 percent decrease from 2011 (32 percent) and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (39 percent), as shown in Table 38.

Table 38

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Gender, 2008 to 2012²⁵

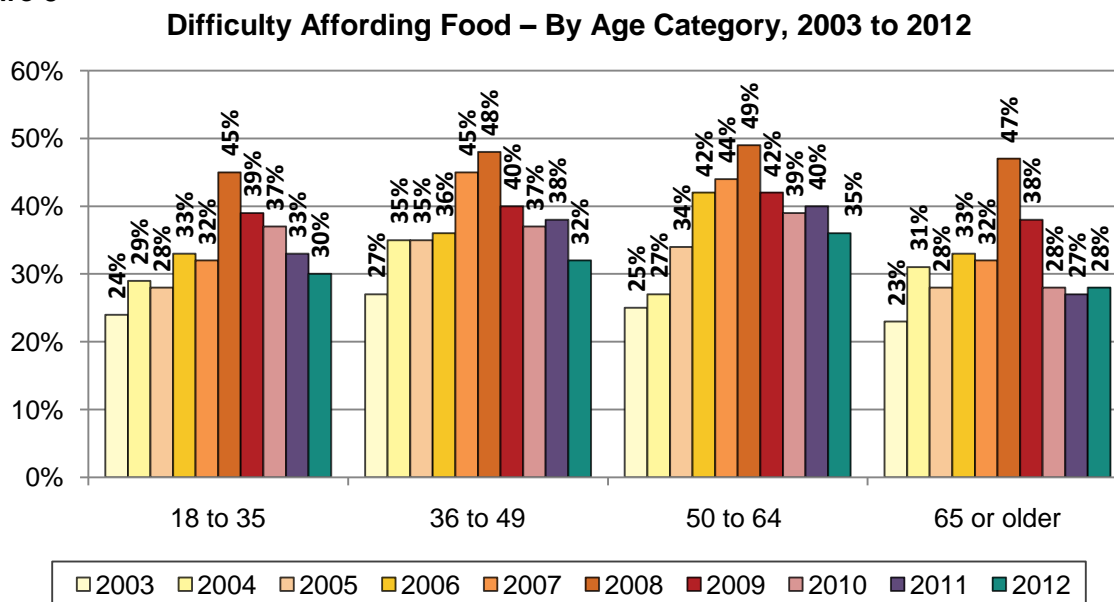
Gender	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Female Residents	45%	36%	36%	33%	31%
Male Residents	39%	26%	27%	32%	27%

²⁵ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS BY AGE

As illustrated by Figure 5, New York City residents ages 50 to 64 experienced the most difficulty affording needed food. Among residents ages 50 to 64, 35 percent experienced difficulty affording food, representing a 13 percent decrease from 2011 (40 percent) and a 40 percent increase from 2003 (25 percent). Residents ages 65 and older had less difficulty affording needed food, but were the only age group with an increase in difficulty between 2011 and 2012. More than one in four residents ages 65 and older (28 percent) experienced difficulty, a four percent increase from 2011 (24 percent), and a 22 percent increase from 2003 (23 percent).

Figure 5



In 2012, New York City residents ages 50 to 64 were more likely than residents in other age groups to make sacrifices listed in Table 39 and Table 40 to cope with difficulty affording food. In particular, this age group reported a higher percentage of residents buying less food to save money (33 percent); buying less healthy food (19 percent); eating smaller meals to save food or money (36 percent); skipping meals (22 percent); buying less fresh fruit and vegetables to stretch their grocery dollar (23 percent); and buying less dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese) (27 percent) than residents ages 18 to 35, ages 36 to 49 and ages 65 and older.

Regarding meal patterns, more than one in four residents ages 36 to 49 (26 percent) and 65 and older (26 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes, compared to almost one in six residents ages 50 to 64 (16 percent). Residents ages 18 to 34 were less likely to serve fewer members at mealtime (9 percent) than other age groups, but were more likely to eliminate holiday meals or Sunday dinners (27 percent).

Since 2011, the percentage of residents that reported making food and nutrition sacrifices in all age groups decreased, with a few exceptions. For residents ages 18 to 35, the percentage that reported eating smaller meals increased from more than one in four (26 percent) in 2011 to almost one in three (31 percent) in 2012. Likewise, the percentage eliminating holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from almost one in ten (9 percent) in 2011 to almost one in five (17 percent) in 2012. For residents ages 36 to 49, the percentage reporting that they ate meals at

friends' or relatives' homes increased from almost one in four (23 percent) in 2011 to more than one in four (26 percent) in 2012, and the percentage reporting that they eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from more than one in ten (11 percent) in 2011 to almost one in six (15 percent) in 2012. For residents ages 50 to 64, the percentage of residents reporting that they eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from almost one in seven (14 percent) in 2011 to almost one in five (19 percent) in 2012, and the percentage of residents ages 65 and older reporting that they ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes increased from almost one in five (18 percent) in 2011 to more than one in four (26 percent) in 2012.

Table 39

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Age Category, 2012

Age Category	2011	2012
18 to 35		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	32%	29%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	17%	17%
36 to 49		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	46%	32%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	27%	18%
50 to 64		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	40%	33%
Bought Less Healthy Food	20%	19%
65 and older		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	33%	25%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	16%	16%

Table 40

Food Conservation Strategies – By Age Category, 2012

Age Category	2011	2012
18 to 35		
Ate Smaller Meals	26%	31%
Skipped Meals	16%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	34%	22%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	13%	9%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	9%	17%
36 to 49		
Ate Smaller Meals	38%	33%
Skipped Meals	27%	20%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	23%	26%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	19%	16%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	15%
50 to 64		
Ate Smaller Meals	36%	36%
Skipped Meals	24%	22%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	23%	16%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	22%	16%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	14%	19%
65 and older		
Ate Smaller Meals	28%	28%
Skipped Meals	16%	13%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	18%	26%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	18%	13%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	10%

Table 41

Food Tradeoffs – By Age Category, 2012

Age Category	2011	2012
18 to 35		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	22%	20%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	28%	20%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	31%	30%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	32%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	33%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	40%
36 to 49		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	31%	22%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	27%	26%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	41%	34%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	36%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	29%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	36%
50 to 64		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	34%	23%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	31%	27%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	39%	32%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	36%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	27%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	29%
65 and older		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	22%	20%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	20%	17%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	28%	24%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	27%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	20%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	24%

As shown in Table 42, New York City residents ages 36 to 49, and residents ages 50 to 64, were more likely than residents in other age groups to pay for basic necessities instead of food, with a few exceptions. A higher percentage of New York City residents ages 65 and older reported paying for medicine or medical care instead of food (16 percent); and a higher percentage of residents ages 18 to 35 reported paying for child care instead of food (seven percent), and tuition or student loans instead of food (15 percent), than any other age group.

Overall, the percentage of residents reporting that they paid for basic necessities instead of food decreased from 2011 to 2012 in every age group. However, for residents ages 18 to 35 and ages 65 and older, the percentage paying for medicine or medical care instead of food increased; for residents ages 18 to 35, the percentage paying for rent instead of food increased; and for residents ages 65 and older, the percentage paying for transportation instead of food increased.

Table 42

Competing Living Expenses – By Age Category, 2012

Age Category	2011	2012
18 to 35		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	15%	16%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	17%	16%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	15%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	6%	12%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	7%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	15%
36 to 49		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	23%	21%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	25%	15%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	22%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	16%	11%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	4%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	6%
50 to 64		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	23%	17%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	24%	17%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	19%	15%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	21%	15%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	3%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	7%
65 and older		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	11%	15%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	14%	13%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	8%	10%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	11%	16%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	3%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	4%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, almost one in seven New York City residents ages 50 to 64 (14 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, compared to more than one in ten residents in every other age category (11 percent, respectively)

As shown in Table 43, 22 percent of residents ages 18 to 35 would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income in 2012. This represents a 10 percent increase from 2011 (20 percent) and a 22 percent increase from 2003 (18 percent). Similarly, the percentage of residents ages 18 to 35 who would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income increased by 17 percent – from 42 percent in 2011 to 49 percent in 2012. By contrast, the percentage of residents ages 36 to 49, ages 50 and 65, and ages 65 and older that would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income decreased or stayed the same between 2011 and 2012.

Table 43

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Age Category, 2003 to 2012**

Age Category	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
18 to 35										
<i>Immediately</i>	18%	17%	25%	22%	19%	23%	24%	25%	20%	22%
<i>0-3 months</i>	46%	40%	56%	58%	52%	50%	50%	56%	42%	49%
36 to 49										
<i>Immediately</i>	16%	17%	19%	26%	24%	23%	15%	17%	22%	19%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	45%	41%	47%	46%	48%	36%	47%	46%	38%
50 to 64										
<i>Immediately</i>	14%	15%	21%	22%	21%	21%	15%	15%	20%	21%
<i>0-3 months</i>	40%	38%	42%	44%	45%	42%	37%	37%	39%	39%
65 or older										
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	18%	11%	12%	17%	23%	15%	13%	21%	15%
<i>0-3 months</i>	31%	29%	27%	27%	31%	36%	29%	28%	40%	23%

Almost one in three residents ages 36 to 49 (32 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown by Table 44. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 7 percent increase from 2011 (30 percent) and an 18 percent decrease from 2008 (39 percent), the earliest data available. Residents in other age categories were less likely to report concern about needing food assistance, and the percentage at which they reported concern decreased between 2011 and 2012.

Table 44

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Age Category, 2008 to 2012²⁶

Age Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
18 to 35	40%	36%	36%	31%	30%
36 to 49	39%	33%	29%	30%	32%
50 to 64	48%	31%	32%	38%	27%
65 and older	46%	28%	26%	32%	28%

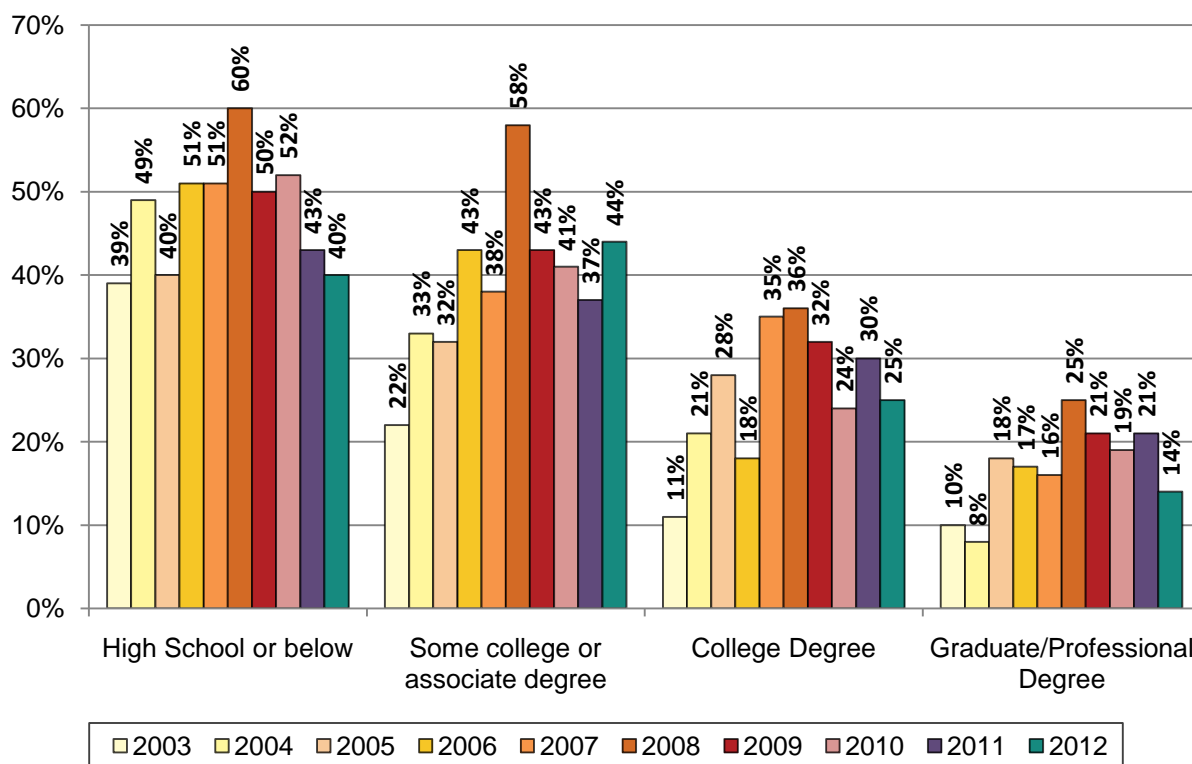
²⁶ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS BY EDUCATION LEVEL

New York City residents with some college or an Associate's degree had the highest percentage of difficulty affording food. As illustrated by Figure 6, 44 percent of residents with some college or an Associate's degree experienced difficulty affording food during 2012, representing an increase of 19 percent from 2011 (37 percent) and an increase of 100 percent from 2003 (22 percent). Two in five residents with a high school degree or below (40 percent) reported difficulty affording food, down seven percent from 2011 (43 percent), but up three percent from 2003 (39 percent). One in four residents with a college degree (25 percent) had difficulty affording food in 2012, representing a 127 percent increase from 2003, when only 11 percent reported difficulty. Even among residents with a graduate/professional degree, almost one in six (14 percent) had difficulty affording food in 2012, representing a 40 percent increase from 2003 (10 percent).

Figure 6

Difficulty Affording Food – By Education Level, 2003 to 2011



A higher percentage of New York City residents who had a high school degree or below (38 percent), and those with some college or an Associate's degree (36 percent), reported purchasing less food to save money than residents with a college degree (26 percent) or a graduate/professional degree (17 percent). Approximately two in five residents with a high school degree or below (42 percent) and some college or an Associate's degree (40 percent) reported eating smaller meals to save food or money, compared to more than one in four residents with a college degree (26 percent) and more than one in ten residents with a graduate/professional degree (13 percent).

Residents with a high school degree or below, and those with some college or an Associate's degree, reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish (41 percent and 32 percent, respectively); less dairy (34 percent and 26 percent, respectively); and less fresh fruits and vegetables (29 percent and 25 percent, respectively) than residents at other levels of educational attainment.

In 2012, residents at all educational levels were more likely to eliminate holiday meals or Sunday dinners than they were in 2011. One in five residents with a high school degree or below (20 percent) reported eliminating holiday meals or Sunday dinners, up from almost one in seven (14 percent) in 2011; followed by one in four residents with some college or an Associate's degree (17 percent), up from one in ten (10 percent) in 2011. More than one in ten residents with a college degree (13 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners, up from almost one in ten (nine percent) in 2011. More than one in ten residents with a graduate/professional degree (11 percent) eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners, up from almost one in ten (eight percent) in 2011.

Table 45

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices, By Education Level, 2012

Education Level	2011	2012
High School or below		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	45%	38%
Bought Less Healthy Food	28%	28%
Some College or Associate's Degree		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	43%	36%
Bought Less Healthy Food	26%	20%
College Degree		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	33%	26%
Bought Less Healthy Food	11%	12%
Graduate/Professional Degree		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	25%	17%
Bought Less Healthy Food	11%	5%

Table 46

Food Conservation Strategies, By Education Level, 2012

Education Level	2011	2012
High School or below		
Ate Smaller Meals	42%	42%
Skipped Meals	26%	22%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	37%	29%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	25%	20%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	14%	20%
Some College or Associate's Degree		
Ate Smaller Meals	35%	40%
Skipped Meals	21%	20%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	22%	24%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	29%	14%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	10%	17%
College Degree		
Ate Smaller Meals	24%	26%
Skipped Meals	17%	16%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	22%	18%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	13%	11%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	9%	13%
Graduate/Professional Degree		
Ate Smaller Meals	19%	13%
Skipped Meals	11%	9%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	19%	12%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	6%	4%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	8%	11%

Table 47

Food Tradeoffs, By Education Level, 2012

Education Level	2011	2012
High School or below		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	40%	29%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	37%	34%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	43%	41%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	44%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	39%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	43%
Some College or Associate's Degree		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	29%	25%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	32%	26%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	38%	32%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	38%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	38%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	44%
College Degree		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	19%	15%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	21%	18%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	32%	24%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	25%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	17%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	25%
Graduate/Professional Degree		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	11%	10%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	10%	8%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	22%	18%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	20%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	15%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	16%

More than one in four New York City residents with a high school degree or below reported paying for rent instead of food (26 percent). This percentage is higher than residents at other educational levels. A higher percentage of residents with some college or an Associate's degree reported paying for student loans instead of food (15 percent) compared to residents at other educational levels.

Table 48

Competing Living Expenses – By Education Level, 2012

Education Level	2011	2012
High School or below		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	28%	26%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	31%	24%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	25%	18%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	15%	19%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	7%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Some College or Associate's Degree		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	19%	19%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	16%	16%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	14%	19%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	19%	18%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	7%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	15%
College Degree		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	11%	16%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	20%	13%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	14%	8%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	10%	8%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	1%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Graduate/Professional Degree		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	8%	5%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	17%	6%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	6%	7%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	7%	5%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	1%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	5%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, one in five New York City residents with some college or an Associate's degree (19 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, compared to more than one in ten residents with a high school degree or below (11 percent), more than one in ten residents with a college degree (11 percent) and four percent of residents with a graduate/professional degree.

As shown in Table 49, more than one in four New York City residents (29 percent) with some college or an Associate's degree would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income in 2012, an increase of 16 percent from 2011 (25 percent). Additionally, one-half of residents with some college or an Associate's degree (50 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months. Almost one in four residents with a high school degree or below (24 percent) also reported that they would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income; and more than one-half (51 percent) reported that they would not have been able to afford food within three months.

Almost one in five residents with a college degree (18 percent) reported that they would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income in 2012, a 38 percent increase from 2011 (13 percent). One in three residents with a college degree (33 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months, representing a six percent increase from 2011 (31 percent). Residents with graduate/professional degrees were least likely to not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income (six percent), as well as within three months (24 percent).

Table 49

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Education Level, 2003 to 2012**

Education Level	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
High School Degree or Below										
<i>Immediately</i>	21%	27%	26%	25%	26%	33%	24%	24%	28%	24%
<i>0-3 months</i>	48%	52%	54%	51%	54%	54%	46%	59%	55%	51%
Some College or Associate's Degree										
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	17%	19%	25%	26%	25%	26%	22%	25%	29%
<i>0-3 months</i>	42%	42%	46%	54%	52%	52%	55%	48%	51%	50%
College Degree										
<i>Immediately</i>	11%	10%	19%	18%	12%	15%	8%	17%	13%	18%
<i>0-3 months</i>	33%	30%	38%	38%	34%	40%	33%	37%	31%	33%
Graduate/Professional Degree										
<i>Immediately</i>	12%	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	7%	7%	12%	6%
<i>0-3 months</i>	30%	22%	27%	28%	32%	29%	17%	25%	26%	24%

More than two in five New York City residents with a high school degree or below (42 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown in Table 50. This percentage of concerned residents has decreased by five percent from 2011 (44 percent), and by 29 percent from 2008 (59 percent), the earliest data available. The percentage of residents with some college or an Associate's degree concerned about needing food assistance (41 percent) went up by 17 percent from 2011 (35 percent) and decreased by nine percent from 2008 (45 percent); the percentage of residents with a college degree concerned about needing food assistance (18 percent) went down by 40 percent from 2011 (30 percent), and down by 45 percent from 2008 (33 percent). Only one in ten residents with a graduate/professional degree (10 percent) was concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage was consistent with 2011, but represents a 41 percent decrease from 2008 (17 percent).

Table 50**Concerned about Needing Food Assistance – By Education Level, 2008 to 2012²⁷**

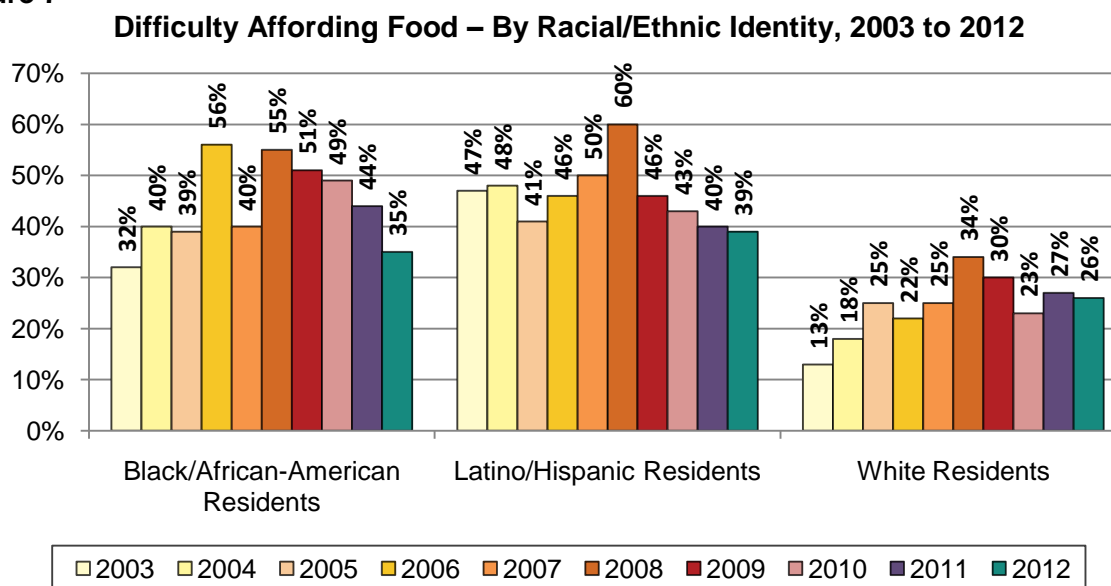
Educational Level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
High School Degree or Below	59%	42%	44%	44%	42%
Some College or Associate's Degree	45%	42%	39%	35%	41%
College Degree	33%	18%	23%	30%	18%
Graduate/Professional Degree	17%	15%	12%	10%	10%

²⁷ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS BY RACIAL/ETHNIC IDENTITY

During 2012, Latino/Hispanic and Black/African-American residents in New York City had the most difficulty affording needed food. As illustrated by Figure 7, almost two in five Latino/Hispanic residents (39 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012, down by three percent from 2011 (40 percent), and down 17 percent from 2003 (47 percent). Among Black/African-American residents, 35 percent experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012. This percentage represents a 20 percent decrease from 2011 (44 percent), but a nine percent increase from 2003 (32 percent). White/Caucasian residents had the least difficulty affording food at 26 percent, with a four percent decrease from 2011 (27 percent). However, the percentage of White/Caucasian residents reporting difficulty doubled from 2003 (13 percent).

Figure 7



As shown in Table 51, Latino/Hispanic residents in New York City (39 percent) were more likely than Black/African-American residents (34 percent) and White/Caucasian residents (23 percent) to report buying less food to save money. Similarly, Latino/Hispanic residents were more likely to report eating smaller meals to save food or money (39 percent) than Black/African-American (34 percent) or White/Caucasian residents (21 percent).

As regards the quality of food purchased, in 2012, Latino/Hispanic residents were more likely than Black/African-American and White/Caucasian residents to report buying less healthy food to save money (24 percent versus 20 percent and 11 percent, respectively).

More than one in four Latino/Hispanic residents and Black/African-American residents (26 percent) reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables, compared to more than one in ten White/Caucasian residents (12 percent). Both Latino/Hispanic and Black/African-American residents (28 percent) were more likely to report buying less dairy, and to report buying less meat, poultry, or fish (37 percent and 36 percent, respectively) than White/Caucasian residents (13 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

Residents of all three racial/ethnic identities reported buying more bread or cereal to stretch their grocery dollar. In 2012, 39 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents reported buying more bread or cereal, followed by 31 percent of Black/African-American residents and 16 percent of White/Caucasian residents.

Table 51

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2012

Racial/Ethnic Identity	2011	2012
Black/African-American		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	39%	34%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	25%	20%
Latino/Hispanic		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	45%	39%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	27%	24%
White/Caucasian		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	31%	23%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	10%	11%

Table 52

Food Conservation Strategies – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2012

Racial/Ethnic Identity	2011	2012
Black/African-American		
Ate Smaller Meals	38%	34%
Skipped Meals	28%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	28%	25%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	28%	12%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	17%	9%
Latino/Hispanic		
Ate Smaller Meals	39%	39%
Skipped Meals	28%	23%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	33%	27%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	24%	23%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	7%	23%
White/Caucasian		
Ate Smaller Meals	23%	21%
Skipped Meals	12%	11%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	20%	17%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	8%	6%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	8%	10%

Table 53

Food Tradeoffs – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2012

Racial/Ethnic Identity	2011	2012
Black/African-American		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	36%	26%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	32%	28%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	41%	36%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	38%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	31%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	40%
Latino/Hispanic		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	31%	26%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	36%	28%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	40%	37%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	45%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	39%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	43%
White/Caucasian		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	17%	12%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	13%	13%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	27%	21%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	20%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	16%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	20%

Latino/Hispanic (27 percent) and Black/African-American residents (21 percent) were more likely than White/Caucasian residents (seven percent) to pay for rent instead of food and to make all other financial tradeoffs outlined in Table 54. The percentage of residents making financial tradeoffs decreased for all racial/ethnic groups from 2011, with a few exceptions. In 2012, 19 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents reported paying for medicine or medical care instead of food, up 15 percent from 2011. Likewise, seven percent of White/Caucasian residents paid for transportation instead of food, up 17 percent from 2011.

Latino/Hispanic residents (15 percent) were more likely to pay for tuition or student loans instead of food than Black/African American (11 percent) or White/Caucasian residents (five percent).

Table 54

Competing Living Expenses – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2012

Racial/Ethnic Identity	2011	2012
Black/African-American		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	25%	21%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	29%	18%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	23%	19%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	18%	13%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	11%
Latino/Hispanic		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	27%	27%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	27%	21%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	23%	16%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	15%	19%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	6%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	15%
White/Caucasian		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	9%	7%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	10%	8%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	6%	7%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	8%	8%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	1%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	5%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, almost one in six Black/African-American residents (15 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, compared to more than almost one in seven Latino/Hispanic residents (14 percent) and five percent of White/Caucasian residents.

As shown in Table 55, more than one in five Black/African-American residents (26 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income. This percentage represents a decrease of 17 percent from 2011 (32 percent), and an increase of 37 percent from 2003 (19 percent). Additionally, 47 percent of Black/African-American residents would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income, showing a decrease of 20 percent from 2011 (59 percent) and remaining consistent with data reported in 2003 (47 percent).

Almost one in four Latino/Hispanic residents (23 percent) would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their annual household income and almost one-half (48 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months, a decrease of two percent since 2011 (49 percent) and of nine percent since 2003 (53 percent).

Although White/Caucasian residents were the least likely not to be able to afford food after losing their annual household income, they were the only group to register an increase from 2011. In 2012, 17 percent of White/Caucasian residents reported that they would not be able to afford food after immediately losing their annual household income, up 31 percent from 2011

(13 percent). Almost one in three White/Caucasian residents (31 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their annual household income, representing an 11 percent increase from 2011 (28 percent), but down 3 percent from 2003 (30 percent).

Table 55

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2003 to 2012**

Racial/Ethnic Identity	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Black/African-American										
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	21%	28%	28%	22%	31%	23%	27%	32%	26%
<i>0-3 months</i>	47%	47%	54%	59%	51%	54%	49%	57%	59%	47%
Latino/Hispanic										
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	25%	27%	29%	26%	25%	23%	20%	20%	23%
<i>0-3 months</i>	53%	52%	57%	56%	54%	50%	54%	51%	49%	48%
White/Caucasian										
<i>Immediately</i>	14%	11%	14%	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	30%	27%	32%	31%	36%	34%	27%	30%	28%	31%

Almost half of Latino/Hispanic residents (45 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as shown by Table 56. The percentage of concerned Latino/Hispanic residents represents a seven percent increase from 2011 (42 percent) and a 20 percent decrease from 2008 (56 percent), the earliest data available. Almost two in five Black/African-American residents (37 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 26 percent decrease from 2011 (50 percent) and a 34 percent decrease from 2008 (56 percent).

Table 56

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2008 to 2012²⁸

Race/Ethnic Identity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Black/African-American	56%	41%	45%	50%	37%
Latino/Hispanic	56%	44%	38%	42%	45%
White/Caucasian	23%	18%	18%	17%	19%

²⁸ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

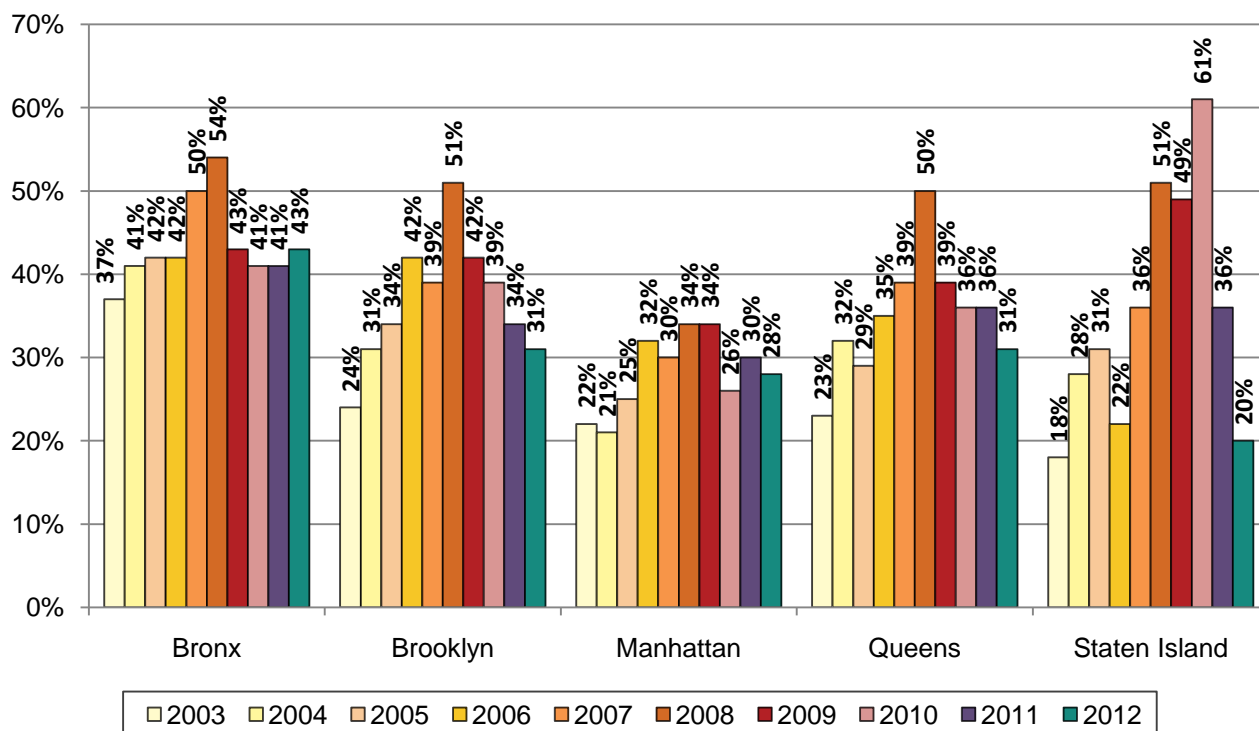
ANALYSIS BY BOROUGH

When reading this analysis, please note that this survey was conducted before Super Storm Sandy, which made landfall in New York City on October 30, 2012 and had severe local impacts in coastal communities in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. These findings do not reflect the additional food affordability issues caused by the storm for many New York City residents.

In 2012, more Bronx residents reported difficulty affording needed food than residents in any other New York City borough. As illustrated by Figure 8, 43 percent of Bronx residents experienced difficulty affording needed food in 2012, followed by 31 percent of Brooklyn residents, 31 percent of Queens residents, 28 percent of Manhattan residents, and 20 percent of Staten Island residents.²⁹ The percentage of residents having difficulty decreased in every borough between 2011 and 2012.

Figure 8

Difficulty Affording Food – By Borough, 2003 to 2012



²⁹ Staten Island figures are subject to error due to small sample size.

Many residents in all boroughs bought less meat, poultry, or fish to stretch their grocery dollar. Almost one in three Bronx residents (32 percent); almost one in three Queens residents (31 percent); almost one in three Staten Island residents (29 percent); and almost one in three Brooklyn residents (28 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, and fish. Manhattan residents (29 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, and fish as well. Manhattan was the only borough to show an increase in residents buying less meat, poultry, and fish since 2011 (25 percent).

Many residents in all boroughs bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar. More than two out of five Bronx residents (44 percent) reported buying more pasta or rice; more than one out of three Queens residents (35 percent) reported buying more pasta or rice. More than one in four Brooklyn and Manhattan residents (28 percent and 29 percent, respectively) reported buying more pasta or rice; and 26 percent of Staten Island residents reported buying more pasta or rice.

Buying more beans, eggs, and nuts was a more popular means of resolving food affordability issues for Brooklyn and Manhattan residents (32 percent, respectively).

To save food or money, New York City residents in all boroughs facing food affordability issues changed their meal patterns. More than one in four Staten Island residents (27 percent); more than one in five Bronx and Queens residents (24 percent) and almost one in five Manhattan and Brooklyn residents (20 percent and 19 percent, respectively) reported eating meals at friends' or relatives' homes.

Table 57

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Borough, 2012

Borough	2011	2012
Bronx		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	43%	34%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	30%	22%
Brooklyn		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	39%	30%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	21%	17%
Manhattan		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	32%	25%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	11%	13%
Queens		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	37%	29%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	19%	17%
Staten Island		
Bought Less Food to Save Money	46%	37%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	22%	16%

Table 58

Food Conservation Strategies – By Borough, 2012

Borough	2011	2012
Bronx		
Ate Smaller Meals	32%	39%
Skipped Meals	19%	26%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	33%	24%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	22%	19%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	10%	20%
Brooklyn		
Ate Smaller Meals	33%	30%
Skipped Meals	21%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	22%	19%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	19%	10%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	11%
Manhattan		
Ate Smaller Meals	26%	23%
Skipped Meals	17%	9%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	23%	20%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	15%	10%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	11%	13%
Queens		
Ate Smaller Meals	35%	39%
Skipped Meals	23%	21%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	27%	24%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	13%	15%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	14%	20%
Staten Island		
Ate Smaller Meals	32%	23%
Skipped Meals	26%	17%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	33%	27%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	29%	12%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	6%	9%

Table 59

Food Tradeoffs – By Borough, 2012

Borough	2011	2012
Bronx		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	32%	22%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	30%	32%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	36%	32%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	40%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	32%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	44%
Brooklyn		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	19%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	25%	22%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	36%	28%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	32%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	26%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	28%
Manhattan		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	22%	16%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	20%	17%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	25%	29%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	32%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	29%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	29%
Queens		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	28%	25%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	34%	22%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	40%	31%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	32%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	26%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	35%
Staten Island		
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	27%	17%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	20%	18%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	44%	29%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	18%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	27%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	26%

With the exception of Queens and Staten Island, paying for rent instead of food was the financial tradeoff most frequently made by residents of all boroughs. In Queens and Staten Island, paying for utilities instead of food was the most frequent tradeoff, and the second most frequent in the other boroughs, as shown in Table 60.

Table 60

Competing Living Expenses – By Borough, 2012

Borough	2011	2012
Bronx		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	29%	29%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	31%	21%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	23%	18%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	12%	16%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	11%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	16%
Brooklyn		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	17%	15%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	18%	13%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	13%	12%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	13%	12%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	3%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	10%
Manhattan		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	13%	19%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	16%	15%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	15%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	8%	13%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	2%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Queens		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	20%	15%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	19%	16%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	19%	14%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	18%	15%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	5%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	8%
Staten Island		
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	8%	3%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	24%	14%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	8%	7%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	18%	5%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	2%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	3%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in seven Bronx residents (15 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food, followed by 15 percent of Staten Island residents, 11 percent of Manhattan residents (11 percent), 11 percent of Queens residents and eight percent of Brooklyn residents.

The Bronx has the highest percentage of residents who would not be able to afford food immediately after losing household income. As shown in Table 61, almost one in three Bronx residents (27 percent), would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income, followed by Brooklyn (23 percent), Manhattan (18 percent), Queens (15 percent), and Staten Island (14 percent). In addition, almost half of Bronx residents (44 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months, followed by residents in Brooklyn (44 percent), Queens (42 percent), Manhattan (34 percent), and Staten Island (21 percent).

Table 61

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Borough, 2003 to 2012**

Borough	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bronx										
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	27%	28%	28%	29%	30%	23%	23%	29%	27%
<i>0-3 months</i>	48%	52%	52%	55%	56%	50%	44%	43%	48%	46%
Brooklyn										
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	17%	21%	24%	20%	21%	19%	20%	21%	23%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	36%	47%	50%	48%	46%	41%	48%	47%	44%
Manhattan										
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	16%	16%	14%	11%	18%	13%	18%	20%	18%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	36%	31%	32%	33%	37%	34%	35%	33%	34%
Queens										
<i>Immediately</i>	15%	13%	21%	23%	19%	25%	19%	13%	16%	15%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	39%	46%	46%	41%	45%	39%	45%	40%	42%
Staten Island										
<i>Immediately</i>	21%	6%	13%	10%	37%	12%	13%	30%	21%	14%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	30%	33%	44%	71%	46%	40%	61%	54%	21%

Bronx residents have the greatest concern about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as illustrated by Table 2. Two in five Bronx residents (40 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months, followed by Queens residents (30 percent), Manhattan residents (28 percent), Brooklyn residents (26 percent) and Staten Island residents (20 percent).

Table 62

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Borough, 2008 to 2011³⁰

Borough	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bronx	53%	32%	39%	38%	40%
Brooklyn	46%	33%	36%	35%	26%
Manhattan	31%	29%	25%	30%	28%
Queens	44%	32%	28%	28%	30%
Staten Island	35%	21%	31%	36%	20%

³⁰ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

ANALYSIS BY VETERAN STATUS

As illustrated by Table 63, in 2012, almost one in three (29 percent) veteran households experienced difficulty affording food, representing an increase of 16 percent from 2011 (25 percent).

Table 63

Difficulty Affording Food – By Veteran Status, 2012

Households with military veteran	2011	2012
	25%	29%

In 2012, more than one in three veteran households (37 percent) reported that they had eaten smaller meals to save food or money, up from almost one in three (32 percent) in 2011; almost one in three (32 percent) reported that they had bought less food to save money, up from more than one in four (28 percent) in 2011; and almost one in six (15 percent) skipped meals, up from more than one in seven (14 percent) in 2011.

In 2012, one in five veteran households (20 percent) reported that they had purchased less healthy food in order to save money, up from almost one in six (15 percent) in 2011. Almost one in five (19 percent) residents reported buying less fresh fruits and vegetables to stretch their grocery dollar, down from more than one in five (22 percent) in 2011; one in five (20 percent) reported buying less dairy (e.g. milk, yogurt, cheese), down from more than one in five (22 percent) in 2011; and almost one in three (29 percent) reported buying less meat, poultry, or fish, down from almost two in five (39 percent) in 2011.

More than one in three veteran households (37 percent) bought more pasta or rice to stretch their grocery dollar; more than one in three (34 percent) bought more beans, eggs, or nuts; and almost one in three (31 percent) bought more bread or cereal.

To save food or money, veteran households facing food affordability issues also changed their meal patterns. Almost one in four veteran households (24 percent) ate meals at friends' or relatives' homes, consistent with findings in 2011 (24 percent); and almost one in ten (9 percent) served fewer family members at mealtime, down from almost one in five (17 percent) in 2011. The percentage of veteran households that eliminated holiday meals or Sunday dinners increased from almost one in ten residents in 2011 (eight percent) to almost one in seven in 2012 (13 percent).

The results discussed above are presented in Tables 64, 65, and 66.

Table 64

Food and Nutrition Sacrifices – By Veteran Status, 2012

Households with military veteran	2011	2012
Bought Less Food to Save Money	28%	32%
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Money	15%	20%

Table 65**Food Conservation Strategies – By Veteran Status, 2012**

Households with military veteran	2011	2012
Ate Smaller Meals	32%	37%
Skipped Meals	14%	15%
Ate Meals at Friends' or Relatives' Homes	24%	24%
Served Fewer Family Members at Mealtime	17%	9%
Eliminated Holiday Meals or Sunday Dinners	8%	13%

Table 66**Food Tradeoffs – By Veteran Status, 2012**

Households with military veteran	2011	2012
Bought Less Healthy Food to Save Food or Money	15%	20%
Bought Less Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	22%	19%
Bought Less Dairy (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese)	22%	20%
Bought Less Meat, Poultry, or Fish	39%	29%
Bought More Beans, Eggs, or Nuts	N/A	34%
Bought More Bread or Cereal	N/A	31%
Bought More Pasta or Rice	N/A	37%

As shown in Table 67, almost one in six veteran households (16 percent) reported that they had been unable, during the last twelve months, to pay for food because they had to pay for rent, up from more than one in ten (13 percent) in 2011. Similarly, almost one in six veteran households (16 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for utilities, up from more than one in ten (11 percent) in 2011; almost one in six (16 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for transportation, more than double the rate in 2011 (six percent); and more than one in six (17 percent) reported that they could not pay for food because they had to pay for medicine or medical care, more than triple the rate in 2011 (five percent).

The tradeoffs made least often by veteran households facing food affordability issues was paying for child care instead of food (6 percent), and paying for tuition or student loans instead of food (7 percent).

Table 67**Competing Living Expenses – By Veteran Status, 2012**

Households with military veteran	2011	2012
Paid For Rent Instead of Food	13%	16%
Paid For Utilities Instead of Food	11%	16%
Paid For Transportation Instead of Food	6%	16%
Paid For Medicine or Medical Care Instead of Food	5%	17%
Paid For Child Care Instead of Food	N/A	6%
Paid For Tuition or Student Loans Instead of Food	N/A	7%

Despite utilization of food conservation strategies and tradeoffs, more than one in ten New York City veteran households (11 percent) were not satisfied with their ability to provide the adults in their family with healthy, nutritious food.

As illustrated in Table 68, more than one in seven veteran households (13 percent) would not be able to afford needed food immediately after losing their household income, representing a decrease of 13 percent from 2011 (15 percent). Similarly, more than one in three veteran households (36 percent) would not be able to afford needed food within three months of losing their household income, up 6 percent from 2011 (34 percent).

Table 68

**Impact of Loss of Income –
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food By Veteran Status, 2012**

	2011	2012
Households with military veteran		
<i>Immediately</i>	15%	13%
<i>0-3 months</i>	34%	36%

More than one in four veteran households (26 percent) were concerned about needing food assistance, including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (from soup kitchens and food pantries), within the next 12 months, as illustrated by Table 69. The percentage of concerned veteran households decreased by 13 percent since 2011 (30 percent).

Table 69

Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Veteran Status, 2012³¹

	2011	2012
Households with military veteran	30%	26%

³¹ This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

METHODOLOGY

HUNGER EXPERIENCE POLL

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Food Bank For New York City commissioned the Marist Institute for Public Opinion to conduct a survey to determine residents' ability to afford food. Data were collected via a phone interview which consisted of several questions developed by the Food Bank in collaboration with the Marist Institute.

SAMPLE POPULATION

This year, telephone interviews were conducted using random digit dialing to land lines and cell phone numbers from October 3rd through October 7th, 2012. A total of 918 New York City residents ages 18 and older were interviewed. Interviews were administered in English and Spanish from a centralized location by trained interviewers. Up to three attempts to establish contact were made per telephone number.

DATA ANALYSIS

A final weighted data set that reflects interview responses was provided to the Food Bank by Marist College. To ensure proportionality, statistics were weighted by borough, income, age, race/ethnicity and gender (according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau). Results are significant at the ± 3.2 percent levels.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

While efforts were made to ensure sample randomness, proportionality and consistency, there are some limitations to this study.

First, as residents decided for themselves whether or not to participate in the telephone survey, there is the potential for self-selection bias.

Second, although overall findings are statistically significant at the ± 3.2 percent level, the margin of error increases for statistics obtained through cross-tabulation.

Finally, interviews were conducted by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion only in English and Spanish. Because there are considerable populations of New York City residents who speak languages other than these, a bias may have been introduced.

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